Hafa Adai!

NMC's 3-day gubernatorial forum to kick off today. PAGE 3
CPA breaks ground on Route 323 project. PAGE 13

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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IN SEED TO SAIL COMPETITION

Eddy's Shrimp Shack wins $20K; Eats Easy wins $30K

Donovan Castro, center, and his family hold their $20,000 check for his first-place win in the first category of the Supporting Entrepreneurs and Economic Development to Sail or SEED to Sail competition last Friday at the GrandVrio Resort. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clint Albert from Tech 5IVE (dba Eats Easy), seventh from left, is all smiles as he holds his $30,000 check for his first-place win in the second category of the Supporting Entrepreneurs and Economic Development to Sail or SEED to Sail competition last Friday at the GrandVrio Resort. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

A business start-up that wants to build a shrimp farm that will also have a specialty restaurant that will serve a variety of shrimp dishes and a young food delivery business in the CNMI were each named the winners of the inaugural SEED to Sail event last Friday at the GrandVrio Resort. See EDDY'S on Page 4

Public health emergency renewed

» Validity period of Presumptive Eligibility also extended

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S Department of Health has officially renewed the public health emergency that took effect back in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, thereby extending the validity period of Presumptive Eligibility for Medicaid.

Earlier in August, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced that the See PUBLIC on Page 4

3,500 SS beneficiaries will see 8.7% benefits increase starting January

» Average monthly increase in SS benefits will be $68
» SS benefits contribute $32M annually to the CNMI economy
» DPS is getting $756,819 from DOJ's COPS hiring program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 3,500 beneficiaries of Social Security in the Marianas will see their benefits increase by 8.7% beginning January 2023, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D- See 3,500 on Page 4

Int'l airline for CNMI in the wings

The CNMI may soon have its own Saipan-based international airline if plans by MP Enterprises come to fruition, according to the company's president, Keith Stewart.

MP Enterprises recently established the CNMI's newest successful domestic operator, Marianas Southern Airways. See INT'L on Page 4

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LOCAL
The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas will be hosting the Autumn Festival on Oct. 22.
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HEALTH & WELLNESS
This Mayo Clinic Minute explains how to integrate more movement into your daily life.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Robbie Coltrane, the gentle half-giant Hagrid in the "Harry Potter" movies, has died. He was 72.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Man gets $50K bail for meth possession

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 cash bail on a man accused of possessing and selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian.

Nick Anthony Empleo Ayuyu was brought before Superior Court associate judge Joseph Camacho last week for his initial appearance and bail hearing. At the hearing, the judge imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Ayuyu for allegedly selling $50 worth of crystal meth to a Department of Public Safety confidential defendant on Tinian.

Ayuyu, 31, was arrested on charges of trafficking and possession of a controlled substance pursuant to a buy-walk operation in September.

During the hearing, Ayuyu was represented by assistant public defender Vina Seelam while assistant attorney general Frances Demapan appeared for the government.

Ayuyu was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody after failing to post bail. Camacho ordered Ayuyu to return to court on Oct. 19 at 10am for his preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for Oct. 24 at 9am.

According to court documents, the Tinian Criminal Investigation Bureau was conducting a drug investigation on another individual when Ayuyu's involvement in drug trafficking was discovered back in August. The bureau managed to obtain the service of a confidential defendant who agreed to meet with Ayuyu to purchase "ice" worth $50.

Last Aug. 30, the confidential defendant tried to buy "ice" or methamphetamine from Anthony Cruz, an alleged drug dealer from whom the informant had purchased drugs in the past. Cruz then allegedly directed the defendant to Ayuyu, who allegedly sold him the drug at his residence in Housing Turnkey. Officers later tested the "ice" acquired from the CD at the Criminal Investigative Bureau office using a Presumptive Drug Test kit. Results of the test came out presumptively positive for methamphetamine.

AT PUBLIC HEARING ON TINIAN

Ex-Tinian senator Dela Cruz, three others oppose bill to increase of tobacco taxes

A bill that seeks to increase tobacco taxes, tie the tax rate to inflation, and invest revenues from the tax into health promotion and disease prevention faced strong opposition during a public hearing at the Tinian Courthouse last Wednesday.

At the hearing on House Bill 22-54 before the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, all four who spoke, including former Tinian senator Jose M. Dela Cruz, opposed the legislation.

In reviewing the proposed legislation, Dela Cruz believes the timing is not right.

The House of Representatives had already passed the bill and it is now before the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, chaired by Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota). Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) is the principal author of the legislation.

House Bill 22-54 seeks to update the definition of tobacco products in the CNMI's excise tax laws; bring tobacco tax rates to the recommended level; set tobacco tax rates to increase with inflation; and invest tobacco revenues in health promotion and disease prevention and control programs in the CNMI.

Dela Cruz said this is not the first time the Legislature raised taxes for tobacco.

"We want to go back and try to look…if the data show that, by raising taxes on this product, it deters people from continuing to use it," Dela Cruz said.

As everyone knows, he said, majority of products on Tinian already cost a lot and that the people are feeling the crunch. "So I feel that this is not the right time to do this at this point. So I totally object [to this bill]," Dela Cruz said.

Tinian Commerce resident director Susan Perez said she is not supporting the bill for one reason—economy. "So I am not supporting it as a business person myself. We need money for our economy. We need money for our island," Perez said.

She said when people do not buy, businesses will not be able to have enough income and sales. "To make it short, no. I'm not supporting it," Perez said.

Others who also spoke against the bill were David Evangelista and Guillermina Cepeda.

Saipan Tribune learned that there were some in attendance that have submitted their written testimony for the next public hearing on the bill on Saipan.

The committee also held a public hearing on Rota Tuesday, during which Mayor Efraim M. Atalig opposed it. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SATURDAY Oct 22
start17:00
close21:00
@Paseo de Marianas
Japanese Autumn Festival 2022
Games
Ring Toss, Shooting Gallery, Water Balloon Fishing, Bouncy Ball Scooping, Duck Catching
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Prizes hotel accommodation, dinning coupons, Audio Products made in Japan & Japanese foods etc.
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Entertainment
Saipan Awaodori Team
performance at 6PM & 7:30PM
celebrates 15th Anniversary
Saipan Kenbukai, Bon Dance
Garage Sales starts from 4PM
Tokens for Games&Foods are available to buy in advance at HIMAWARI, AGUA CONNECTIONS, FURUSATO and TAKAGI ASSOCIATES.
1 Token = $1.00
If you buy $10 value of tokens in advance, you get 1 free Token.
Japanese Society of Northern Mariana Island
SAIPAN AWAODORI TEAM

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

5.0-magnitude quake near Merizo, Guam

At 4:08am on Oct. 16, 2022, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred at 12.059°N 143.800°E, 163 km southwest of Merizo Village, Guam. No tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.9-magnitude quake near Saipan

At 6:18am on Oct. 15, 2022, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred at 16.973°N 147.141°E 244 km northeast of Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands. No tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

NMC's 3-day gubernatorial forum to kick off today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Sablan says she and Staffler are ready
» Torres says he and Sen. Sablan excited about the forum

Sablan

Palacios

Torres

The three-day Gubernatorial Town Hall Forum hosted by the Northern Marianas College will kick off tonight, Monday, at the American Memorial Park Theater.

The opposing candidates will not be facing each other in a debate-style forum; instead, each gubernatorial slate will be assigned a specific day to make their case with NMC students and voters. The forums will be from 6pm to 8pm on each day.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), who is running for governor under the Democratic Party, and her running mate, Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), will answer questions during the forum today. Sablan said yesterday that she and Staffler are set for today's forum.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, will be the schedule of Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, to face the forum.

Palacios and Apatang are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, under a unified independent team.

As of press time, Palacios has yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry if he and Apatang are ready for tomorrow's forum.

This Wednesday, it will be the turn of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson Sablan (R-Saipan), to answer the questions at the forum. Torres is seeking re-election, while Sablan is running for lieutenant governor, under the Republican Party.

Torres said yesterday that he and Sablan are excited for the forum.

NMC, in collaboration with the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, is hosting the forum.

Ticket prices are $5 for students and $10 for NMC employees, while supplies last.

According to NMC, each tandem will be asked 11 questions relating to the economy, environment, healthcare, workforce development, and education.

ASNMC students compiled the questions based on an NMC-wide survey conducted last September.

The moderators are NMC Language and Humanities assistant professor Adam Walsch and NMC School of Education associate professor Dr. Beylul Solomon.

Proceeds from the forum will go to NMC's student organizations.

NMC said that interested community members can view the livestream of each meeting on the college's Facebook page at facebook.com/nmc.proa/.

Free self-defense clinic

On Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 at 10am, a self- defense clinic will be held at the Tech Trench Purebred Saipan Gym in Garapan, Saipan.

This free self-defense seminar for the public will be facilitated by the Fit to Lead Ambassador Frank "The Crank" Camacho, in association with Domestic Violence Awareness Month and The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

A former Ultimate Fighting Championships competitor and an experienced mixed martial arts expert, Camacho will show techniques and concepts to women, men, and children of the CNMI. They will learn basic self-defense techniques to protect themselves from all types if violence, including domestic violence. This event is open to all ages and will be a fun, family friendly workshop.

Participants are encouraged to bring a partner or family member(s) to the free seminar. Dress lightly and bring water for moderate physical activity.

Spots are limited and we encourage you to register, as soon as possible. To sign up or if you have any questions contact: info@endviolencecnmi.org , by phone at 670-234-3878, or at https://forms.gle/Npqv6cKJ9wCftQ5x7

This free seminar is brought to you by the Office of the Governor, Fit to Lead, Trench Tech Saipan, and The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

An Accident Waiver & Release of Liability Form will be available on-site and must be signed by each agreeing participant. Minors will need parent/guardian consent and waiver. ***(PR)***

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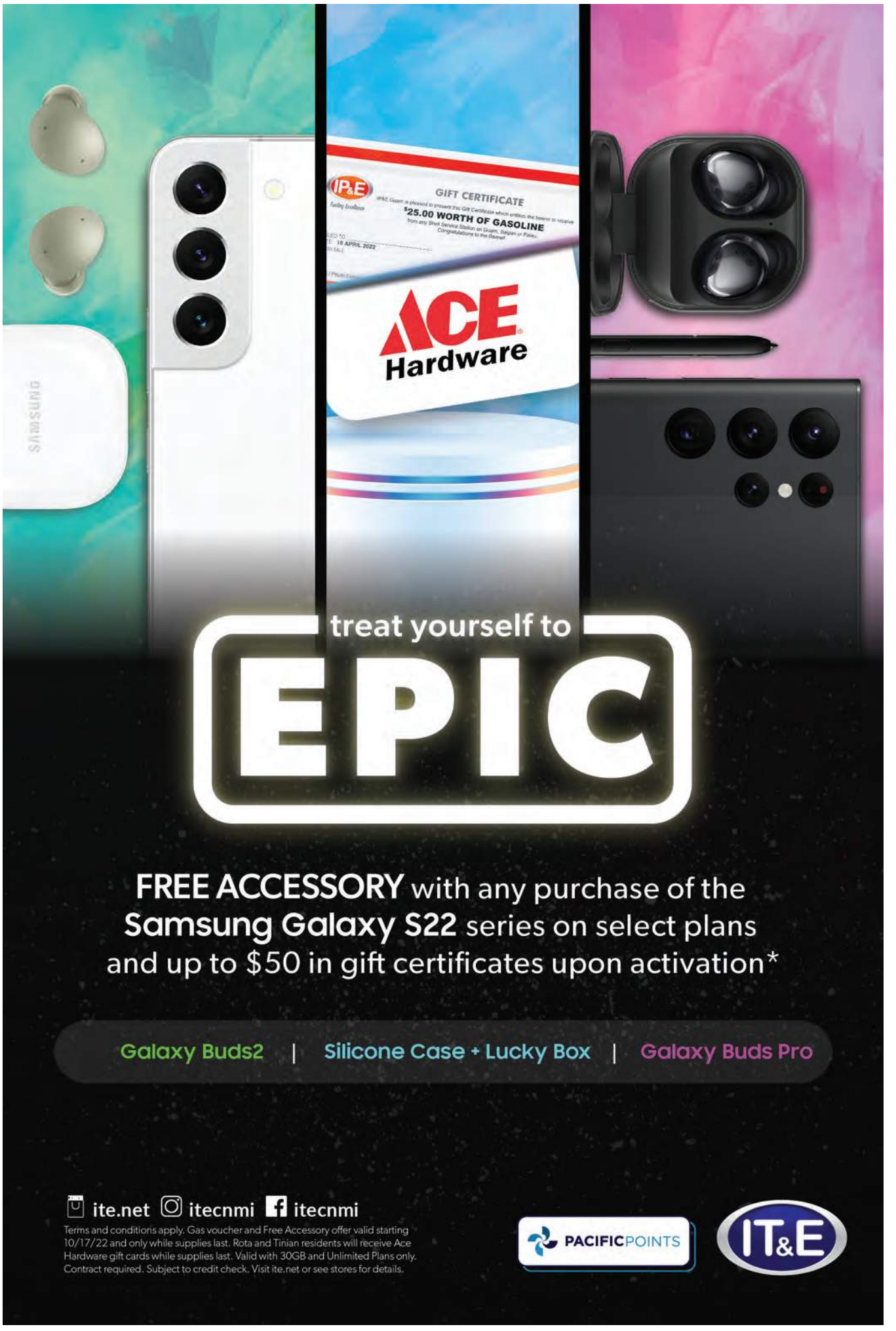
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PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

Six receive Governor's Humanities Awards

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
HUMANITIES ALLOW US TO EXAMINE PAST AND PRESENT EXPERIENCES IN OF VALUES AND BELIEFS THAT WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY RELIED UPON FOR GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION.

The awardees of this year's Governor's Humanities Awards—starting from third from left, April Repeki, Frances Sablan, Mario Benito, Sofina Tomokane, Beylul Solomon, and Dolores Rasiang, mother of Gloria Rasiang—pose with Northern Marianas Humanities Council board members during the awarding ceremony last Tuesday at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the Office of the Governor awarded six individuals each with a Governor's Humanities Award on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2022, at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club.

The six awardees are Frances Manibusan Sablan, Mario Benito, Sofina Quitugua Tomokane, Beylul Solomon, April Quiambao Repeki, and Gloria Saralu Rasiang.

The annual Governor's Humanities Award is a prestigious honor given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the civic and cultural vitality of the CNMI. Each year, the council's board of directors invite the community to nominate humanities practitioners and scholars for recognition in the following areas: (1) Preservation of CNMI History; (2) Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; (3) Research and Publication in the Humanities; (4) Outstanding Humanities Teacher; and (5) Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

"We encourage a range of expressions that come from individuals who are differently situated in terms of their identity, history, and culture, said Dr. Bobby Cruz, council chair. "From language, song, dance, to traditional navigation and indigenous healing, to research on historical trauma, these remarkable human beings ensure that our stories are told."

Sablan received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her ongoing and steadfast commitment to revitalizing, teaching, and leading Chamorro dance and language activities since moving to the CNMI in 1978. She was the founder of several Chamorro dance groups and contributed to several published and soon-to-be published works written in the Chamorro language.

Benito received the Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices Award for his enduring role in the community as a traditional canoe builder, teacher, and voyager, enriching our community and strengthening our cultural identity through Cultural Maritime Training Center›s «traditional» tracks: Sailing and Voyaging, in which students learn advanced open ocean sailing, and traditional navigation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

3,500

From Page 1

MP) over the weekend

Sablan also disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter that the CNMI Department of Public Safety is receiving $756,819 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to support hiring nine career law enforcement officers.

Sablan said the Social Security Administration announced on Thursday the 8.7 percent increase of benefits. He said this translates to an average monthly increase in benefits of about $68.

The delegate said this substantial cost of living allowance, or COLA, increase is meant to match inflation over the last year as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

He said Social Security benefits contribute $32 million annually to the Marianas economy.

Sablan said over 2,100 retired workers receive the monthly benefit, along with another 1,400 disabled workers, widows and widowers, spouses, and children.

With respect to DPS, the delegate said the U.S. Congress funds the COPS Hiring Program to reduce crime and advance public safety through community policing.

INT'L

From Page 1

The proposed airline has been named Northern Marianas Airways to emphasize its local focus.

Stewart said that Northern Marianas Airways could commence services as early as next March, provided appropriate route support could be provided.

"As a company with several local business interests, we are acutely aware of how important direct international air links into Saipan are if we are to grow the local economy and provide a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren," said Stewart.

He also said that it was important that the CNMI looked to open up new tourism markets and that in order to do so it was essential that the airline was Saipan-based.

"Australia is a market that we have closely researched, and we believe it has great potential. Australians spend an average of 6.2 nights per visit, making them one of the longer staying tourists," said Stewart. "We know that post-COVID, Australians are looking for alternative tourist destinations and with a direct flight of just six 3/4 hours, Saipan with its pristine beaches, excellent water-based activities, first-class golf courses, cultural history, and mild climate is a very attractive option" he added.

According to Stewart the airline would provide capacity for nearly 50,000 Australian passengers alone each year. "With Marianas Southern Airways we have provided affordable fares to Tinian, Rota and Guam," said Stewart, "and we plan to do the same with fares to Australia and other parts of the world to help jumpstart tourism in the CNMI."

While Sydney and Brisbane in Australia are the first targets for the proposed carrier, it also plans to provide affordable travel to Saipan from several Japanese cities as well as Seoul and Manila. Stewart says that they could have these additional routes up and running before the end of calendar 2023.

"We have been in discussions with Anchorage-based Northern Pacific Airways to provide a turnkey aircraft and supply solution," said Stewart, adding that "as the new airline would be Saipan-based and controlled, decisions as to where it operates to will be made with the interests of the CNMI at the forefront."

With Northern Pacific Airways' own services scheduled to bridge the U.S. with Japan and South Korea, flights through Saipan will give travelers from Australia, the Philippines, and the CNMI an innovative way of connecting destinations East and West through Anchorage, Alaska, according to Stewart.

Northern Marianas Airways proposes to operate a Boeing 757-200 aircraft with 16 business class seats, 36 premium economy seats and 129 economy seats. The B757 has exceptional performance, allowing it to operate from almost any airport in the world, including noise-restricted airports, short runways and airports in hot and high locations. It is quiet and fuel-efficient, is environmentally friendly and meets worldwide standards for engine emissions. ***(MP Enterprises)***

PUBLIC

From Page 1

national public health emergency of Jan. 31, 2020, would most likely be renewed due to the U.S. Department of Health's failure to provide a two-months' notice lifting the advisory.

With the renewal of the national public health emergency comes the extension of the Presumptive Eligibility for Medicaid.

Local health industry workers have recently been advising those applying for Presumptive Medicaid, or are dependent on it, that it is not certain yet whether or not the validity of Presumptive Medicaid would be extended to January 2023 because there was no announcement from the U.S. Department of Health. Some healthcare providers have even started informing consumers that Presumptive Medicaid may not be accepted after Oct. 18.

Fortunately, as of Oct. 13, 2022, U.S Department of Health Secretary Xavier Becerra officially renewed the public health emergency, which therefore extends the validity period of Presumptive Medicaid.

"As a result of the continued consequences of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic, on this date and after consultation with public health officials as necessary, I, Xavier Becerra, secretary of Health and Human Services, pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, do hereby renew, effective Oct. 13, 2022, the Jan. 31, 2020, determination by former secretary Alex M. Azar II, that he previously renewed on April 21, 2020, July 23, 2020, Oct. 2, 2020, and Jan. 7, 2021, and that I renewed on April 15, 2021, July 19, 2021, Oct. 15, 2021, Jan. 14, 2022, April 12, 2022, and July 15, 2022, that a public health emergency exists and has existed since Jan. 27, 2020, nationwide," the secretary stated.

This means the validity of Presumptive Medicaid has officially been extended to January 2023 and those interested in applying may do so.

Presumptive eligibility, or PE, is an expedited process of enrolling eligible residents in the CNMI Medicaid program. It allows patients to have their care covered while waiting for their application to be fully processed.

It offers immediate access to health care while applying for regular Medicaid or other health coverage. You can start using PE for Medicaid coverage right away for Medicaid covered services, such as doctor visits, hospital care, and some prescription drugs.

Starting the day you are approved for PE, you are able to go to any health care provider that accepts Medicaid.

Individuals and families are eligible for Medicaid if their attested gross income does not exceed 180% of the Supplemental Security Income federal benefit, which is about $28,800 annually for a family of four.

EDDY'S

From Page 1

Donovan Castro's Eddy Jo's Shrimp Shack business pitch won first place and $20,000 in seed money for the first category of the inaugural SEED to Sail event, while Clint Albert from Tech 5IVE, LL, which does business as Eats Easy won $30,000 in the second category of the business competition.

According to CNMI Small Business Development Center Network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero, SEED to Sail, or Supporting Entrepreneurs and Economic Development to Sail, competition is a guided experience for start-up and early-stage businesses to create and present a pitch to support their application to receive "seed money" to fund their small business venture.

For the inaugural program, the CNMI SBDC Network created two categories, with the first one for new and existing businesses that have been operating for at least one year and the second one is for those who have been conducting business in the CNMI for over a year.

Castro, a 33-year-old chef at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Dietary Department, presented to the judges his "Eddy Jo's Shrimp Shack" business pitch and won first place and $20,000 for it.

He said he has "always envisioned going into the shrimp business, not only to own a shrimp shack, but to work with members and organizations in our community to revive the shrimp population." He was inspired by a family trip to Hawaii where he had the opportunity to visit the Macky's Shrimp Truck in Kahuku, where he was immediately inspired by their shrimp dishes.

Castro told *Saipan Tribune* after his Proa Award first place win that he was "lost for words."

"After hearing the other finalist pitches, I was thinking to myself that this is going to be a tough one," he added.

When asked why he seemed to be emotional onstage during his presentation, he said, "What can I say? My emotions got the best of me. Once I saw the picture of my dad on the slide, I felt as if he was right next to me. But I had to remember why I was there—not only pitch my idea but also inform the community about this enterprise, which I have savored for quite some time."

He dedicates his win to his late father, Edward T. Diaz, and late grandfather, Jose Q. DLG, and his family.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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IT&E

SHELL

Jason Palacios from the Office of the Governor and Capt. David Johansen award Jason Tenorio, second from left, with payment and a certificate for completing his Merchant Marine Credential application process.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ARPA funds pay for Merchant Marine Credential application

The Western Pacific Maritime Academy announced over the weekend that Jason Tenorio is the first candidate to received payment for his Merchant Marine Credential application using American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 grant funds.

Jason Palacios from the Office of the Governor and Capt. David Johansen awarded Tenorio with payment and a certificate for completing his MMC application process.

"Thanks to the governor for awarding Western Pacific Maritime Academy some ARPA funds so that I can get my MMC to work on ships and support my family," said Tenorio.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres awarded WPMA a $10,000 grant using ARPA funds, for workforce development. WPMA assists men and women from the CNMI with 100% of the costs for their MMC application using APRA grant funds.

The MMC application process consists of getting a Transportation Workers Identification Card, a U.S. Coast Guard Medical Examination, a U.S. Department of Transportation drug test, and other documentation for processing the application. The costs of applying for an MMC is approximately $600. The ARPA grant funds will pay for about 20 MMC applications.

WPMA is a non-profit corporation located right here on Saipan with its maritime offices and classrooms located at Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base. The academy will be offering a full suite of USCG-approved maritime courses and services to the seafaring public. Included in its offerings are free seminars to the public on how to obtain an MMC.

WPMA's workforce development program steers candidates into high-paying jobs in the maritime sector as entry level credentialed professional mariners as deck seamen, engineers or members of the catering department. An entry-level seaman in the U.S. Merchant Marine can earn upwards of $5,000 per month through one of a number of Maritime Unions or Military Sealift Command. In the wake of COVID-19, the maritime sector is experiencing a huge demand for credentialed mariners.

WPMA offers several programs to the CNMI public: An approved Public School System high school maritime vocational track offered at Kagman High School as a pilot program, The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, a youth program offering regimented seamanship experiences to kids ages 10 to 18, Saipan Sailing School offering American Sailing Association certified courses and sailing experiences and charters, its maritime education program offering USCG-accredited courses to the public, and free boating safety consultation and inspections to CNMI boat owners and operators.

For further information on our programs, or information on how to apply for an MMC, contact Selina Taitano at staitano@wpma.net. ***(PR)***

GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2022

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers
on
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022
From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m261c6797130a3b20548a10a75e0789f0

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 27676877356##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: j37DkbXpk7$

Benefits Workshop Topics:
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/26/2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AIRLINE STAIRS & AMBULIFT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-23

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its airline stairs and ambulift truck at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning October 10, 2022, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Christopher S. Tenorio, Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile, or email cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to atudela@cnmiports.com. on or before October 28, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Airline Stairs & Ambulift maintenance service and repairs, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport /RFP-001-23". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 11, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 10/10/2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
EMAIL: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Request for Proposals for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2022-01

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concession"
CPA-RFP-011-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of eighteen (18) months (contract to end on 05/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-011-22 is **October 12, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on November 22, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Covid-19 crippled a lot of dreams and businesses.

business owners a… …and Tinian.

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 18

…ross Northern Mar… …get back on their feet.

BOOST Program is the acronym for - **B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities and **S**tability **T**ogether. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants – initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance – provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities. The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

BOOST

Apply for it now.
While funds last.

For inquiries simply logon to
www.boostcnmi.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 206

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Alex Jones verdict sends a strong message to those who profit from cruel lies

It's unfortunate that the families of Sandy Hook probably won't actually get anything close to the nearly $1 billion that a Connecticut jury assessed Wednesday against right-wing conspiracy monger Alex Jones for his monstrous lies about the massacre that killed their children. But the historic verdict nonetheless sends a strong message to those who inhabit the sewers of profitable misinformation out there: Society has had enough.

Within hours of the shooting deaths of 20 small children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, on Dec. 14, 2012, Jones began monetizing the unimaginable pain of the families. The founder of Infowars, a website dedicated to spreading right-wing conspiracy nonsense to boost its sales of sketchy dietary supplements, claimed for years that the massacre was a hoax staged by the government as a pretext for gun confiscation. Jones accused the parents and their slain children of being paid actors. His nutty followers, believing his con, harassed and threatened these grieving parents to the point that some of them had to relocate. Stalkers pursued them even in faraway states.

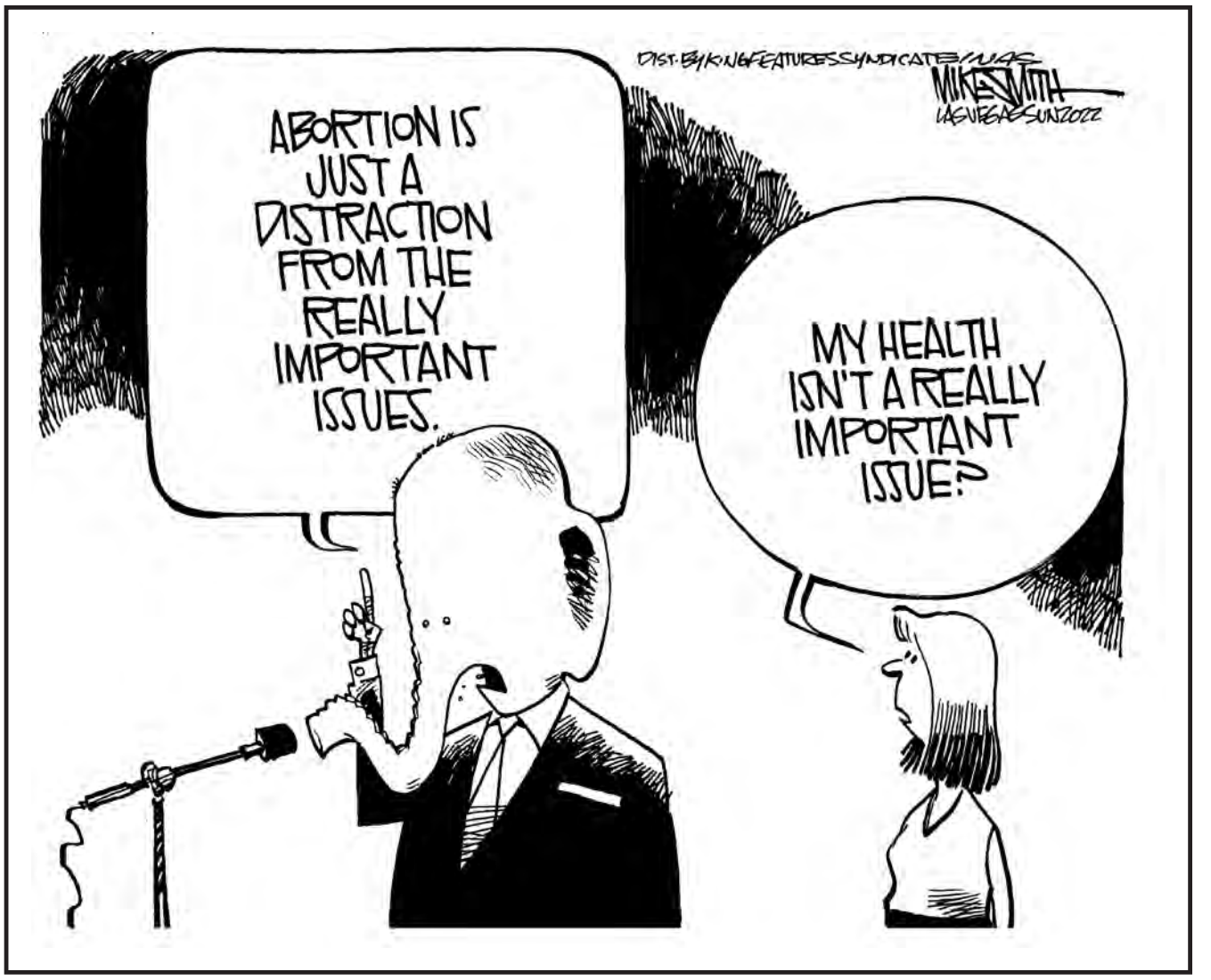
Jones clearly thought this sadistic campaign was a cost-free way for him to build his gullible but profitable audience. Happily, he's been proven wrong. Already on the hook for tens of millions of dollars from other litigation stemming from his Sandy Hook lies, Jones was hit with his biggest bill yet on Wednesday: a jury award of $965 million in compensatory damages to the families of eight of the victims and a federal first responder. That total will likely grow when a judge decides on punitive damages next month.

Contrary to the predictable rants of fellow conspiracists like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., there's no free speech issue here. No one is questioning Jones' right to spout even the most offensive of his opinions. But publicly, maliciously lying in ways that incite harassment and disrupt people's lives is not a right. It's defamation, and it's legally actionable. The fact that Jones' motivation was personal profit makes it all the more fitting that he faces financial ruin for it.

Jones' net worth is believed to be as high as $270 million. He has claimed bankruptcy and played other financial games designed to avoid that ruin. The parents' lawyers are challenging those games at every turn, as they should. Meanwhile, Jones is again demonstrating his bottomless amorality by using the verdict to ask his audience for money for his appeal.

In any case, it's becoming clear that Jones will either lose everything or spend his pathetic life in court trying not to.

See ALEX on Next Page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MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022
ABORTION IS JUST A DISTRACTION FROM THE REALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES.
MY HEALTH ISN'T A REALLY IMPORTANT ISSUE?

Sabotage and attendant risks to the Marianas

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

The war in Ukraine is something that fellow Chamorros may want to follow closely. As most may know, a key bridge was recently attacked and damaged by Ukrainian forces in the fight taking place against Russia. The bridge, called the Kerch Bridge, is a structure with tremendous symbolic and strategic significance to the Russians, who claim the act to be a Western-sponsored sabotage carried out by the Ukrainian special services community. The portions of the bridge that were hit were used for automobile and rail traffic. The bridge is considered a vital supply and infrastructure platform critical to Russia's efforts in prosecuting the war in Ukraine.

This incident that took place in Europe brings to mind the idea and potential risks of sabotage, which is something that should be of highest importance to our Chamorro people and village residents for a variety of reasons.

Sabotage is an important topic of discussion for our Chamorro people because the Mariana Island chain is vulnerable to sabotage in ways and in degrees that are potentially more harmful to our Pacific Islander civilization due to the lack of adjacent landmasses and resources near the Marianas. In other words, being physically isolated from large landmasses poses additional risk factors should acts of sabotage occur.

Food supplies

Food supply matters are of utmost importance to our Mariana Islands chain. Most of the food that is available throughout the island chain has been and remains imported from the United States and/or selected parts of Asia. Island ports and airports are therefore key strategic assets to receive food for all residents of the Marianas and for the military. Without these port infrastructure components, food supplies would be cut off, endangering the lives of our families and friends.

The island chain simply doesn't produce enough food locally to adequately meet total daily demand for any period of time. This constitutes an island security matter, and thus a national security vulnerability to thousands of people.

Seaports

The total seaport infrastructure throughout the island chain is vulnerable to sabotage in a variety of ways. Without a fully functioning and protected seaport, island chain, residents would not be able to sustain the same quality of life that they expect and deserve.

The military also uses the ports throughout the island chain for operational and logistical support reasons. Because our island chain is smack in the middle of the Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent, it remains a most vulnerable region for thousands of citizens.

Precisely how effective are the security check systems in place at all seaports? Can the ports screen all materials that could be chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons-related? If not, why not? What is the precise and specific percentage of goods that go unscreened? If dangerous materials are found, what processes are in place to handle and properly manage these substances? What measures are being taken to address how the port will screen goods that go unnoticed?

How many ways are there to operationally disable the cranes? How many ways are there to damage the fuel infrastructure, container holding areas, and firefighting systems at the ports? How can the ports be rendered inoperable?

Do we know and understand all the port contingency plans in place that will ensure seaport ecosystems will remain operational should there be one or a series of terrorist attacks against these key infrastructure nodes?

Is Guam or the Northern Marianas ready to handle a major oil spill or multiple major oil spills at one or all of the seaports? If so, how so?

Airports

Just how secure are the airports throughout the Mariana Islands?

See SABOTAGE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The 2022 election

Judge pro tempore Alberto E. Tolentino's decision not to try Gov. Torres on charges of "misconduct in public office, theft, and contempt" until after the 2022 election forces the CNMI electorate to vote for one of the three candidates without confirming the governor's guilt or innocence. It also poses some interesting questions for students of Marianas history and politics.

The only similar event in Marianas political history was the indictment of Guam Gov. Ricardo J. Bordallo, Democrat, by U.S. Attorney K. William O'Connor only three days before the 1986 Democratic Party primary election.

Bordallo defeated Speaker of the Guam Legislature Carl T. C. Gutierrez, Democrat, in the primary, but lost to Joseph Flores Ada, Republican, in the general election, even with Gutierrez's full support. The Guam electorate had clearly decided that Bordallo was guilty, even without a trial.

The situation today in the CNMI is different. Gov. Torres, Republican, is tied into a three-way race with no primary election. With little chance of any one of the three candidates for governor getting over 50% of the votes, the two top vote-getters will face a run-off election two weeks later. Should Torres somehow win the runoff, the question becomes: Will Tolentino conduct the trial before or after the inauguration?

If the trial is held before the inauguration and Torres is found guilty, will there be another election?

If, on the other hand, Torres loses either the general election or the runoff, and the trial is held after the inauguration of either Palacios or Sablan and Torres is found not guilty, would Torres be able to demand a new election?

As to the trial of Ricky Bordallo, he finally faced the judge on Feb. 13, 1987. He was found guilty by a jury of his peers on 10 of 17 counts of extortion, bribery or gratuity, conspiracy, and witness tampering. Three hours before he was scheduled to be transferred to a minimum-security prison in Boron, California on Jan. 31, 1990, Bordallo committed suicide in Hagåtña by wrapping himself in a Guam flag, chaining himself to statue of Chief Kepuha, and shooting himself in the head with an illegal .38 caliber pistol.

The only similar case in the Northern Mariana Islands was the impeachment of former governor Benigno Repeki Fitial, founder of the CNMI Covenant Party, by the CNMI House of Representatives on Feb. 11, 2013. He was scheduled to face trial before the CNMI Senate to determine if he should be removed from office, but resigned on Feb. 20, 2013. On May 14, 2015, Fitial pleaded guilty before Judge David A. Wiseman on charges of misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services. On Oct. 12, Wiseman ordered Fitial to serve one year in prison. Then-governor Eloy Inos, who had been Fitial's lieutenant governor, commuted Fitial's sentence.

It is unfortunate that Judge Tolentino did not push forward with the trial of Gov. Torres, thus allowing the CNMI electorate to cast more informed votes and enjoy the 2023 inauguration without a major controversy.

Don Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Fear and paradigm shifts!

Fear is one of the most inhibiting forces of nature and mankind, as fear serves to protect but it also serves to prevent experimentation, exploration, innovation in our evolution.

I think it is vital that voters understand how fear has been a real political tactic for over two decades, from the fear of Article XII being tampered with or trashed, to the fear of locals even listening to an outsider like myself. It has been fear that is actually inhibiting the economic and social progressive growth rate that is needed to keep up with the rest of the world, especially with our American counterparts on the mainland.

"Fortune favors the brave", which was a Roman slogan and its true wisdom. If we are too afraid to seek and ask investors to create a "theme park" in the CNMI, then guess what—if you never ask or try, no investor will ever have the chance to say yes. If we are afraid of the potential pain in growing the CNMI, then there will never be any prosperity gain. No pain equals no gain. We call it growing pains for our youth but it is also true with societies like the CNMI that is challenged to grow economically and socially. The challenge in the CNMI has always been the ability to overcome the fear of change. One of the main reasons Ralph and Arnold still have supporters is the fact that their supporters don't want change!

During his eight years, Ralph has governed over $2 billion in federal funds and over a billion in local budgets, yet the CNMI's economy is nearly dead, with only two bubbles to show for his efforts to fix our economy and nothing to improve our lives. But Ralph wants voters to be afraid of the House, as if we are stupid. Arnold has been around for 40-plus years and I beg to ask, if you have been riding a horse or in a car for 40 years you would think its really time to change for something new and better. The question is: "Are we the people going to carpe diem" or are we are doomed to continue with same old leadership, that has used fear and families to stay in power. But there is nothing to fear with Tina, which is why Arnold and Ralph are only stoking fear and attacking each other!

There have been seismic paradigm shifts in cultures throughout human history. The time is now at hand for the CNMI to either face our fears and vote for real change or relinquish our hope for a better CNMI to the old. For sure, nothing will be the same with Tina as it was under Ralph and Arnold, as she will be the first woman and the first Democrat in over two decades with a different mindset and character. Our economy has been a political football, using fear to stay in control for over two decades while locals are literally being chased away to the mainland. Government employees have been living in fear of retaliation, retirees in fear of no checks, the 9,976 registered NMDs can't get a penny of their money and it's just going to be a never-ending merry-go-round of fear until voters figuratively decide to get off and ride something new and better.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

ALEX

From Page 8

The message to other conspiracy hucksters should be clear. In the words of Erica Lafferty, daughter of one of the adult victims: "The truth matters. Those who profit off other people's pain and trauma will pay for what they've done."

© 2022 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Going long: The ravages of long COVID are coming into focus

It's becoming clearer that, even in the unlikely event that we somehow, someday manage to eradicate COVID-19 and its many variants, we can't wipe clean the enormous toll the virus has taken.

This is not just because of the incalculable loss of those who've died, but the struggles of those who've lived. The results of a study recently published in the journal Nature Communications—which utilized survey data from around 100,000 people for the most wide-ranging review of the subject—further confirm what we've come to fear: a significant percentage of the population will go on to live with long-term, chronic symptoms, even if they initially had mild cases.

Of more than 31,000 symptomatic people in the study, conducted in Scotland, a full 42% reported only partial recovery between six and 18 months post-infection, and 6% reported not recovering at all. The most common problems were respiratory and cognitive, the sort of challenges that can curb a person's ability to live a full and independent life. This reality, of a still poorly understood set of chronic conditions affecting hundreds of thousands if not millions of Americans at a time, will shape our society and government in ways that we're only starting to grapple with.

The news wasn't all bad, as the study found that those who've been vaccinated or had asymptomatic infections, even if they are not fully insulated, were less likely to suffer these longer-term impacts. That's why we should be lining up to get jabbed with the latest available vaccines, something that Americans are failing badly at, with only about 4% of those eligible receiving new bivalent booster shots.

Encouraging and in some cases compelling vaccinations remain key, which is why it's good news that the Supreme Court this week refused to issue an injunction against New York City's municipal vaccination program. Employers have long had the right to compel their employees to protect themselves. Don't take that tool away as this virus still kills about 400 Americans a day and infects countless more.

© 2022 *New York Daily News*

SABOTAGE

From Page 8

Just how robust are the current operating rules and operational security processes designed to protect aircraft on the tarmac, as they sit at the gates or elsewhere on airport property? Just how secure and protected are the planes from sabotage?

How secure are the fuel storage facilities at our airports? How can these be better protected from potential sabotage? How are fuel transmission systems vulnerable to sabotage? Can the various components of airport fuel systems be easily compromised, damaged, or destroyed from acts of terror? What kinds of layered defensive and protective measures are in place to better protect and secure fuel inventories, transmission lines, airplanes, and all terminal and cargo spaces?

What airport operational security systems are in place to detect nuclear, biological, radiological, or chemical substances that could be used to blow up an airplane, or various airport infrastructure facilities, access roads, or control towers? How protected are airport employees and passengers from one or a series of chemical and biological attacks or hostage-taking situations?

What gaps need to be filled to completely ensure that the seaports and airports of the Mariana Islands are safer than we generally understand?

As the United States focuses on the war in Ukraine, China continues to make leaps and bounds in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, and military expansion while partnering with the Russians in bilateral military exercises, and Maritime Belt and Road Initiative work throughout the Pacific. Non-state parties and perhaps state-sponsored or affiliated entities intent on harming and/or sabotaging American territory, infrastructure and citizens, pose potential risks to our Mariana Islands.

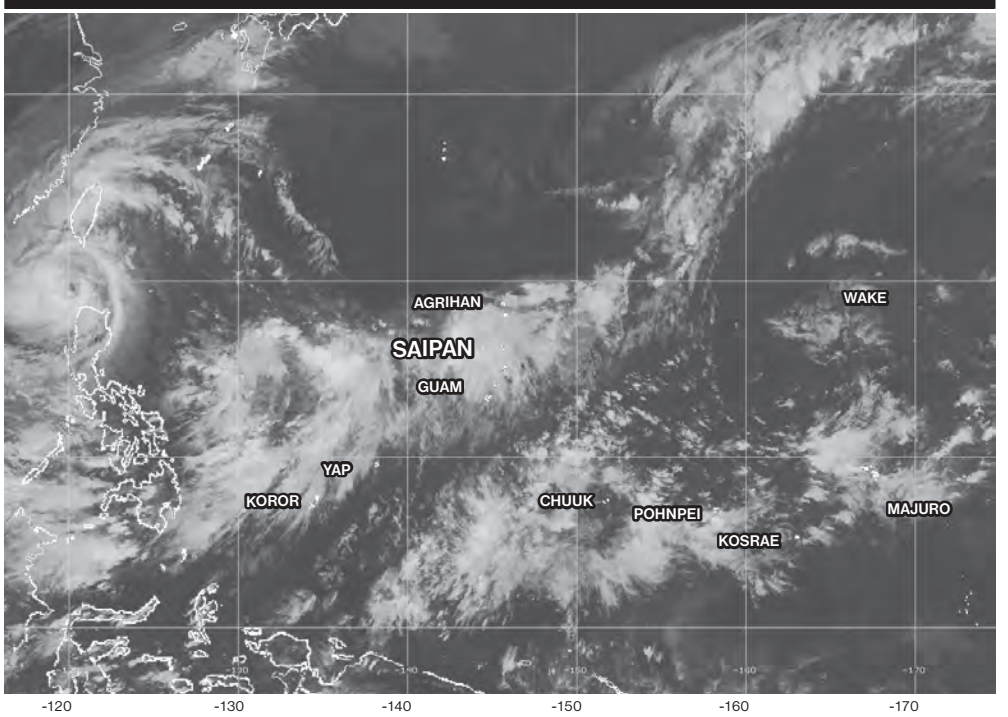
Sabotage is a dark topic but one that should be openly discussed, especially throughout our island chain, which is now home to one of the world's most important American military training regions on Planet Earth.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy,	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
88° 79°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Updated the forecast for Majuro to add isolated thunderstorms for the rest of today. Satellite imagery shows cooling cloud tops and the Global Lightning Detection Network (GLD) has detected lightning in Majuro`s coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Showers	88° /79°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain	65° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	64° / 35°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	85° / 70°
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	67° / 52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 49°
Miami	Isolated Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
New York	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Osaka	Rain	71° / 61°
Paris	Rain	68° / 59°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	72° / 49°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 66°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	83° / 58°
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	89° / 68°
Tokyo	Showers	71° / 63°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	71° / 57°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:22 PM	11:43 PM
Tuesday	-	1:09 PM	-
Wednesday	12:35 AM	1:54 PM	-
Thursday	1:27 AM	2:35 PM	-
Friday	2:18 AM	3:13 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:32 AM	Low Tide	0.08
2:57 PM	High Tide	1.57
8:35 PM	Low Tide	1.26
11:18 PM	High Tide	1.32

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	4:00PM	11:05AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA

UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA192/112	10:25PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
UA184/112	11:50PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Guam
OZ704/623	11:55PM	2:30PM+1	2,5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

NARITA-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Hyatt welcomes new executive chef, plus a new F&B director

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Hyatt Regency Saipan Food and Beverage director Hani Min, left, and executive chef Matteo Fracalossi welcome guests at Giovanni's Restaurant.

Hyatt Regency Saipan recently welcomed a new Food and Beverage director and executive chef as the islands' tourism industry continues to rebound with the return of tourists.

Hani Min is the new F&B director at the landmark Garapan hotel, while Matteo Fracalossi is Hyatt Regency Saipan's new executive chef.

Min, who arrived on island two weeks ago, is optimistic that the islands' first brand hotel will be perfectly positioned to welcome returning tourists.

"In Korea there's no more COVID-19. Things are picking up here on Saipan. I've seen a lot of promotions going on [in Korea] to Guam and Saipan," she said.

The former fashion model said she and Fracalossi are also excited to revamp Hyatt Regency Saipan's food offerings in the coming months.

"Together with chef Matteo, we're reviewing everything that we're offering in the hotel. We will have more Italian food at Giovanni's and it's already happening," she said.

Under her baton, Min promises that there will also be more F&B activities. For example, she said they will have a big Halloween costume party on Oct. 31 and promised monthly F&B activities after that

Min began her Hyatt journey as F&B marketing manager at Hyatt Grand Seoul in 2016. Before joining Hyatt Grand Seoul, Min studied and worked in France for over six years. She returned to Seoul to pursue her career in the events industry as Sales and Marketing director for HSK Events until the end of 2015.

Min holds a bachelor's degree in international management at Kyunghee University and a master's degree in fashion, marketing, and management in Mod'Spe in Paris.

Fracalossi, who had already worked in four countries before landing on Saipan, said he's looking forward to his next adventure on the island.

"It will be a different experience. Each country has its own story and its own culture. We're looking to do something nice and understand the people and what's going on," he said.

This native of Trento, Italy admitted that the pandemic has thrown a curveball on how the food industry normally does things. "After the pandemic everything will be changed. There will be a lot of difference. Also coming from a big city to an island, you should really change your mentality and the work mindset."

So far, Fracalossi likes what he sees in his new home at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"[I've] already been here three weeks and the staff is very nice and very interested to learn something different. I'm Italian so I'm not saying I'm very good but I know Italian food and I know how to make it. …Italian food is about taste, it's pure taste. Normally Italian food is simple but it doesn't mean it's simple, it's easy to make it," he said.

Fracalossi is also excited to see what kind of ingredients are available from the local markets.

"[I'm] really interested to see what's in the market," he said, adding that he's willing to use local produce and see what's suitable to use in his kitchen.

Fracalossi brings with him 24 years of culinary experience. He began his career in the culinary field at a young age in Trento, Italy.

In 2013, he started going international as executive chef in Moscow at the Restaurant Amarsu and later ventured to Banana Island Resort as an Italian chef in Doha, Qatar.

He started his Hyatt journey in 2016 at Park Hyatt Saigon, Vietnam as chef de cuisine at Opera Restaurant. In 2019, he became executive chef at the Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

Time Creation Corp. is latest ProaPerks partner

Marine recreation company Time Creation Corporation is the latest business to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount on Managaha boat transfers, marine activities, diving, and snorkeling.

Time Creation is located on Middle Road, across from Megabyte Saipan. More information about the services they offer can be obtained by calling (670) 235-6075.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE
10/06/2022

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after October 24, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Communications Center Tower Rehabilitation Project.

The CNMI HSEM proposes to rehabilitate the communications center tower that is the lifeline of telecommunications for the entire CNMI. The tower has incurred structural damage from previous typhoons but more so with Typhoon Yutu. An assessment to the tower was done after the typhoons and damages to the ladder, steel structure and exposure of various sections ranging from 50 feet to 200 feet. It was also determined that 75% of the tower sustained moderate damage due to its exposure to strong winds and heavy rainfall. The lower 50 feet of the tower sustained minimal damage as its current position is protected by the carved portion of Mt. Tapochau.

Purpose:
The communications center tower is the main focal point of reception and transmission in the CNMI. The potential loss of the communications center tower would result in no communications or ability to support antennas for the telecommunications and broadcasting within and throughout the CNMI as it is utilized by the government and civilian population as the main transmission points of the islands. The need for this rehabilitation affects government, public and private communications and especially for emergency communications. The damages sustained from Typhoon Yutu have left the tower vulnerable to continued wind and rain damage. This in turn exposes sections of the tower to corrosion and deterioration throughout the structure. The corrosion and condition of the communications center tower currently present difficulty in repairs to minor fixes due to its unique location and height resulting in the need for a proper rehabilitation.

Location:
Mt. Tapochau, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$1,883,100.00 in CDBG-DR funding
No other funding sources were identified

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular working hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **October 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE
10/06/2022

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

AMENDED
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

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Project Activity/Type:
CHCC Community Guidance Center Transitional Living Center and Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Center.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center (CGC) is the single state agency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Transitional Living Center under CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from Typhoon Yutu. The center requires replacement of doors, door jambs, door locks, painting of interior and exterior building and rooms. This includes electrical outlets, switches, light fixtures, and convert to LED lighting. The replacement of existing tins to new ones and replacement of existing wood truss in exterior balcony. The plumbing will have be redone according to code standards, replace toilets, toilet seats, showerheads, water valves, drain pipes for all bathroom and kitchen. Replace kitchen cabinets, sinks, and counters and install new ones.

The Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery (SATR) Clinic, is also a program within the CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from typhoon Yutu. The damages for repair include exterior and interior doors, door jambs, and door locks. They also include replacement of vinyl floor tiles on the first and second floors. Removal of existing water and sewer lines to conform to building code standards. Repair and replace bathroom walls, facets, lavatory, water closet, all ADA required updates including handle bars and door sizes. Removal and replacement of all damaged wood closets and paint. Replacement of all electrical conduits with weatherproof GFCI outlets for the exterior and new electrical outlets in the interior of the building. Replacement of all ceiling light fixtures interior and exterior. Removal and replacement of all electrical breakers and panels. Installation of typhoon shutters on all doors and windows. Repainting on interior and exterior buildings and rooms.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Commonwealth Health Center Community Guidance Center Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Clinic is an essential component that support individuals and families affected with substance abuse disorders with essential information and coping skills to pursue health, wellness, and recovery.

Location:
Gloria Dr., Navy Hill, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
Amend the project cost from $710,000.00 to $930,000.00 in CDBG-DR funding
No other funding sources were identified

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **October 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

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/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

SCC offers educational scholarship

Applications for the 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Educational Scholarship Program is now available.

The SCC Education and Workforce Development Committee is committed to this annual tradition to support students by defraying the cost of pursuing their postsecondary education, thus improving our local workforce, and solving issues impacting our community.

This year, SCC will award students who display academic excellence, extracurricular success, leadership force, and volunteerism, pursuing careers needed in our workforce to solve problems related to the CNMI. All awards will be distributed to the following categories:

■ The Chamber Education Award is for Saipan, Tinian, Rota high school graduates or ongoing college residents seeking higher education at the Northern Marianas College, Saipan.

■ The Pellegrino Vocational Education Award is for Saipan residents seeking further training at vocational trades institutions on-island.

Applicants should complete the relevant award application based on their eligibility. Once the application is submitted, the judging process occurs in three parts: application review, essay judging, and the final interview. Scholarship judges are members of the SCC Education and Workforce Development Committee.

A complete list of eligibility and requirements is outlined in the official SCC Scholarship Application on our website, www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program. Hard copies can be made available upon request.

The application deadline is 5pm on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022. Applicants should submit their completed documents through email to coordinator2@saipanchamber.com or in-person at the SCC Office located on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 413. Applicants are encouraged to send their materials ahead of time to ensure SCC has received all required documents.

For more information about our scholarship program, call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
POPULATION HEALTH SERVICES
RFP23-CHCC/PHS-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOV 18th, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA), COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) AND POPULATION HEALTH SERVICES (PHS) STRATEGIC PLANNING"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-001

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy hill)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy Hill) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 17, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-001, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy Hill)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 7, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, CUC's Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan CUC's Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician. via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MANNY B. SABLAN
PURCHASING ADMINISTRATOR

Finance chief sued over COVID-19 premium pay

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The law firm of Banes Horey Berman & Miller, LLC has filed a complaint against Finance Secretary David Atalig in his official capacity over COVID-19 premium pay.

Last Tuesday, the plaintiffs, represented by Joseph Horey, filed a complaint at the CNMI Superior Court for a writ of mandamus against the Finance chief.

A writ of mandamus is essentially a court order compelling a government official to fulfill their duties.

The law firm filed the complaint on behalf of certain clients who had worked at least 40 hours, as government employees, in directly mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic, but who received premium pay of just $1,000 each, rather than $5,000 they claim they deserve.

As relief, the law firm wants the court to grant a writ of mandamus compelling Atalig to make available to them records relating to the policy and/or practice of differentiating between active and former employees for purposes of premium pay.

"As of the date of this complaint, defendant has not produced the documents requested, nor has he provided any notice that they are available for inspection and copying. The Open Government Act provides that, within 10 days of a request, all public records shall be available for inspection by any person during established office hours, unless public inspection of such records is in violation of law. The Open Government Act further provides that recourse many be had to this court by any person unlawfully denied access to public records. Plaintiff had been unlawfully denied access to public records by defendant's failure to make the requested documents available within ten days of plaintiff's request for them. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to a writ of mandamus compelling defendant to make the requested documents available," the complaint said.

The plaintiffs also want the court to grant them costs of suit and reasonable attorney fees and further relief as the court deems just and proper.

According to the complaint, on Dec. 29, 2021, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that CNMI government employees who had worked at least 40 hours in directly mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic would each receive $5,000 in premium pay.

The plaintiff's clients had heard rumors that they were paid less because they were no longer employed by the Commonwealth, but they were unsure if that information was correct, and, if it was, they were unsure of the basis for such a distinction.

In a letter dated July 1, 2022, plaintiff requested Atalig, pursuant to the Open Government Act, to produce any records setting out the method of calculation used in determining the amount of premium pay awarded to former government employees.

Then, in a letter dated July 19, 2022, defendant replied that no "method of calculation" was used; the only "criteria" was that "active employees as of pay period #26" would receive $5,000, while "former employees" who had done the same work during the same time period in mitigating COVID-19 would receive $1,000.

By e-mail of July 25, 2022, plaintiff requested the Finance chief to make available any records setting out these "criteria"; however, the defendant did not respond.

On Aug. 23, 2022, the complainant sent the defendant another request pursuant to the Open Government Act requesting records relating to the policy and/or practice of differentiating between active and former employees for purposes of premium pay. Then, on Aug. 30, 2022, defendant's agents replied by e-mail that they had received the plaintiff's second OGA request and that they were working on it.

On Sept. 22, 2022, plaintiff replied with an e-mail noting that a response to the second OGA request was overdue. Defendant has not replied to this as well.

CPA breaks ground on Route 323 project

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, has finally broken ground on the long-awaited Route 323 Industrial Drive road improvement project.

CPA and DPW officials, joined by CNMI government officials, broke ground Thursday on the long overdue road improvement project on Route 323.

Route 323, or Industrial Drive, is the strip of road stretching from behind the Army Reserve to the CNMI Seaport. The anticipated completion date of the project is May 31, 2023.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the project has been a long awaited one. "This project has been on CPA's to-do list for decades and the only reason why we are able to do this is because we have community stakeholders and industry partners who joined with us to make this day a reality," she said.

King-Hinds said this project is a good example of public and private industries coming together to accomplish a task.

"I want to especially recognize our partners at Saipan Stevedore who committed to funding this public benefit project as part of their lease negotiations with CPA. Their contribution, together with funds from the casino, appropriated by the 20th and 21st SNILD, has allowed CPA and DPW, with the support of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, to move forward with this project. This project is a great example of what we as a community can accomplish when we are working together," she said.

The CPA chair said the Route 323 project aims to improve the quality of life for members of the community.

"We are not just making improvements to a road. We are improving the quality of life for the people here in our community. A better road means better access to our seaport for all our port users, a safe public space for our people to walk, jog or bike; a road that our veterans and men and women in uniform can be proud of when they're on their way to training or heading to the PX to pick up some essentials; an enhancement to this area in general complimenting the beauty that is Inos Park where many of our families and tourists go to enjoy breathtaking views of the sunset, to picnic, to exercise or practice self-care," she said.

In addition, this road improvement project also ties in to the CNMI's recovering tourism economy, she said, as the renovations will provide a good first impression for visitors who dock at the CNMI seaport.

"It also means that when any visitor docks and leave this port, we are making a good first impression critical to the growth of our tourism industry, the lifeblood of our economy. This is what the fight is all about. We can't make the critical investments in our healthcare system, our schools, our utilities, ensure continued 100% payment to our retirees, without a thriving, sustainable economy. Projects like this tangibly contribute to that growth and directly serve to improve our quality of life. This is what we are celebrating today and I thank all of you for making it happen," she said.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, has finally broken ground on the long-awaited Route 323 Industrial Drive road improvement project. CPA and DPW officials were joined by CNMI government officials during the groundbreaking ceremony held Thursday along Industrial Drive.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Japanese Society's Autumn Festival this Saturday

The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas will be hosting the upcoming Autumn Festival on Oct. 22, 2022 (Saturday), at the Paseo de Marianas, to promote the Japanese culture and to show its commitment to the CNMI community. The event will last from 5pm to 9pm.

The opening ceremony will kick off at 6pm with the ceremonial breaking of a sake barrel. Food vendors will be selling popular Japanese foods like takoyaki, yakitori, yakisoba, ramen etc. There will also be various game booths—a shooting gallery, ring toss, water balloon fishing—for everyone to enjoy.

A raffle is also planned, with attractive prizes like speakers, Bluetooth earphones, Takoaki machine all made in Japan, $500 Docomo gift card, meal coupons, hotel accommodation and many more.

Foods, games, and raffle tickets can be purchased and played with the special tokens. Tokens are available to buy now at Himawari, Takagi Associates, Furusato, and Aqua Connections with $10 for 11 tokens if you buy in advance. You can also buy on the spot at the festival with $1 for one token.

The festival will feature garage sales (drom 4pm to 6pm) for fundraising for the Japanese school.

The highlight of this year's festival is that the Awaodori Saipan team will celebrate its 15th anniversary and will perform onstage at 6pm and 7:30pm, collaborating with Tokyo Tensuiren entertainers from Japan. This will be the exciting show.

The stage will also demonstrate the Saipan Kenbukai for the traditional kendo style, as well as Bonodori Dance, traditional dance with Kimono and performances. We encourage the public to join and experience the dance.

The public is encouraged to follow the 3W's; Wear your mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance. All of our staffs are fully vaccinated. We would like you to stay safe and enjoy the festival.

This festival is one of many examples of the historic ties between the Marianas and Japan. ***(PR)***

Registration for NMC's spring 2023 semester ongoing

Individuals who are looking to further their education or advance their professional career are encouraged to register for Northern Marianas College's upcoming spring 2023 semester, which begins on Jan. 17, 2023.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions and Records located in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or a fillable PDF may be downloaded from https://bit.ly/3PjpTsH. Individuals can also apply online at www.marianas.edu/spring2023

Supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application. These requirements can be sent via email to admissions@marianas.edu.

Individuals who need financial aid can also apply for the Federal Student Aid program, which provides financial assistance to those who meet certain eligibility criteria.

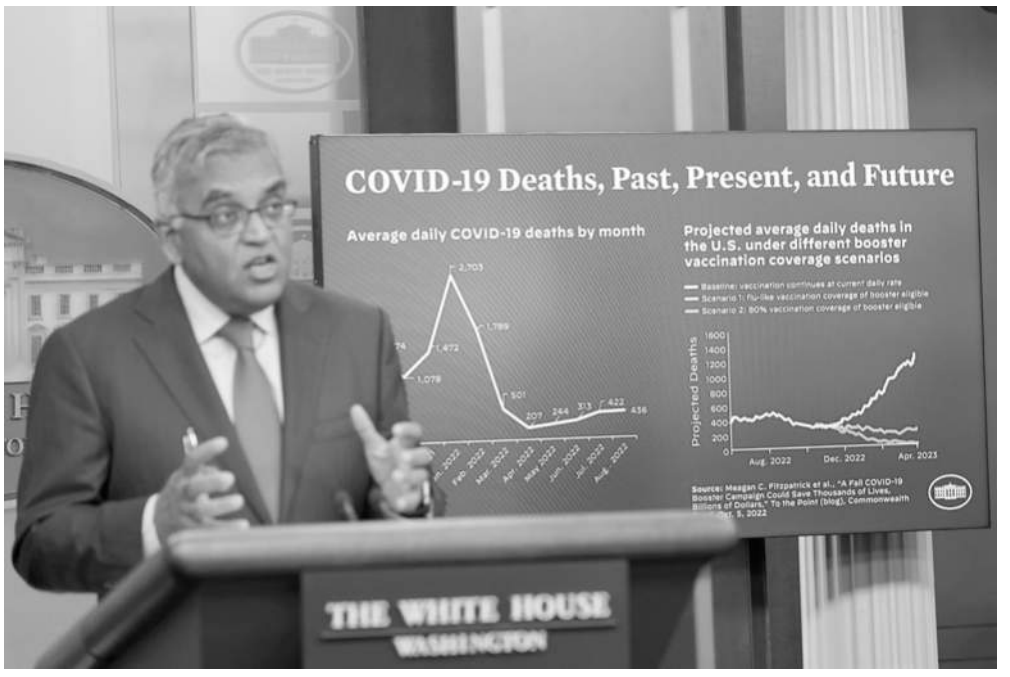
New students are required to take the math and English placement tests. A schedule of the placement test dates can be found at www.marianas.edu/spring2023. Students can also make an appointment to take placement tests by calling 237-6774. New and readmitted students must also view the online student orientation program in order to register for courses.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or visit www.marianas.edu/spring2023. ***(NMC)***

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Biden administration extends COVID public health emergency


COVID-19 Deaths, Past, Present, and Future
Average daily COVID-19 deaths by month
Projected average daily deaths in the U.S. under different booster vaccination coverage scenarios
Projected Deaths
Aug. 2022
Dec. 2022
Apr. 2023
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AP

White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Ashish Jha speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration said Thursday that the COVID-19 public health emergency will continue through Jan. 11 as officials brace for a spike in cases this winter.

The decision comes as the pandemic has faded from the forefront of many people's minds. Daily deaths and infections are dropping and people—many of them maskless—are returning to schools, work and grocery stores as normal.

The public health emergency, first declared in January 2020 and renewed every 90 days since, has dramatically changed how health services are delivered.

The declaration enabled the emergency authorization of COVID vaccines, testing and treatments for free. It expanded Medicaid coverage to millions of people, many of whom who will risk losing that coverage once the emergency ends. It temporarily opened up telehealth access for Medicare recipients, enabling doctors to collect the same rates for those visits and encouraging health networks to adopt telehealth technology.

Since the beginning of this year, Republicans have pressed the administration to end the public health emergency. President Joe Biden, meanwhile, has urged Congress to provide billions more in aid to pay for COVID-19 vaccines and testing. The federal government ceased sending free COVID-19 tests in the mail last month, saying it had run out of money.

Public health officials are urging people age 5 and older to get an updated COVID-19 booster alongside a flu vaccine this fall before a predicted winter coronavirus surge and a nasty flu season. As of last weekend, about 13 million people had gotten the updated booster, which targets the omicron variant, according to White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha.

The administration has said it would provide 60 days notice before it ends the public health emergency.

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE: The importance of stretching throughout your workday

By DEEDEE STIEPAN
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Sedentary behavior, including sitting for long periods of time, can contribute to adverse health effects, including something referred to as "sitting disease."

In this Mayo Clinic Minute, Dani Johnson, a wellness physical therapist with the Mayo Clinic Healthy Living Program, explains how to integrate more movement into your daily life.

Whether you're working in an office or from home, Johnson suggests taking breaks every 30-45 minutes throughout your day to perform some simple stretches.

"Our bodies can get stiff. You know, we're always kind of in this hunched-over position when we're at our desks and working, so we really want to open up our chest," says Johnson.

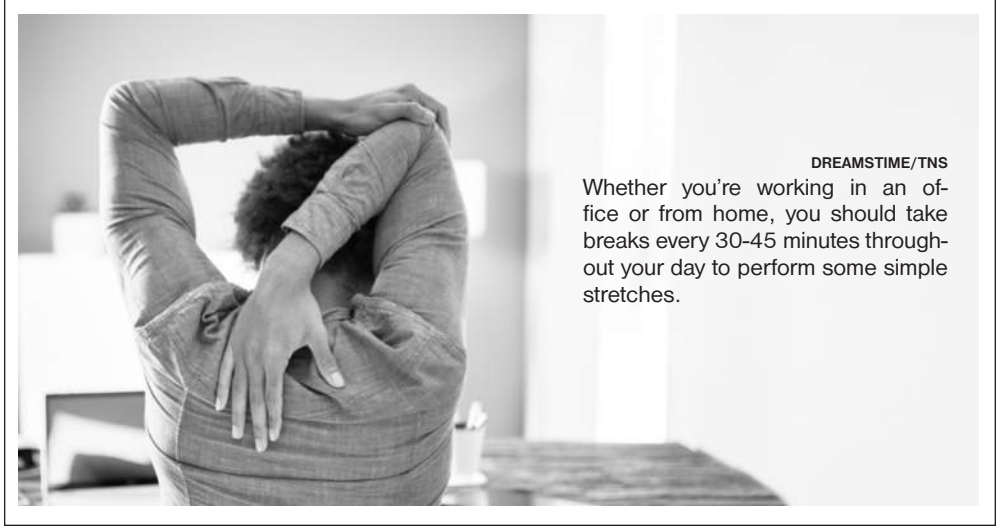
"One way to do that is just by doing some simple shoulder rolls, so just bringing the shoulders back and down."

"Another really great activity you can do using a wall is just coming to the wall, putting the back of your hands up on the wall, and just sliding your hands up and down nice and slow," says Johnson.

Don't worry if you don't have access to gym equipment. Johnson says your desk can be a great exercise tool.

"Simply by putting your hands on the desk and stretching out, so you're moving your bottom back, bringing your arms forward," says Johnson.

Whether you try these stretches or take a break to go for a walk, all movement counts.



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Whether you're working in an office or from home, you should take breaks every 30-45 minutes throughout your day to perform some simple stretches.

ON NUTRITION: Eat with an eye on the clock

By BARBARA INTERMILL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Imagine a clock in your brain that regulates how your body uses the food you eat. Suppose this clock controls how your body burns calories. And what if this clock even manages your appetite?

These and other questions are being studied in a new area of research called chrononutrition. Basically, scientists want to know how our internal 24-hour timing system influences our eating habits and ultimately our health.

Scientists now realize that circadian rhythms direct more than just when we sleep and when we wake up. They also signal the most natural times to eat and the best times not to eat. DREAMSTIME/TNS

Most of us have heard of circadian rhythms—natural changes in our bodies that follow a 24-hour cycle. For example, we tend to get tired and sleep at night and wake up and are alert during the day. What makes this happen?

According to the National Institutes of Health, these 24-hour patterns are controlled by specific biological clocks in nearly every organ of our body. And everything is kept in sync by one master clock in the brain.

So what does this have to do with nutrition? Scientists now realize that circadian rhythms direct more than just when we sleep and when we wake up. They also signal the most natural times to eat and the best times not to eat. That is, there are certain times during our 24-hour day in which our bodies best use the food we eat. And we best not throw that pattern out of whack.

Read through this interesting yet intricate research and you may come to the same conclusion I did. As much as possible, we need to eat when it's light and sleep when it's dark. When we disrupt these natural times of eating and sleeping, our bodies don't respond well.

Studies have found, for example, that people who eat most of their calories earlier in the day (rather than late at night) actually burn more fat when they are asleep. On the other hand, late-night eating seems to shift our biological clocks in ways that promote fat storage and disrupt the body's ability to regulate blood sugars.

I experienced this first-hand while in college back in the stone age. Being a nutrition student, I volunteered for a weight loss study in which half of us were instructed to only eat between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. every day. The other group ate all their calories between 3 p.m. and bedtime. Both groups ate the same amount of calories each day. But after six weeks, my group (the early eaters) lost significantly more weight than the late eaters.

We still have a lot to learn about chrononutrition. In the meantime, when possible, remember this old adage: Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper. And even if you work night shifts, develop a regular pattern of eating and sleeping.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating. Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

Healthy Living

The darker the chocolate ...

... The more heart-healthy, cancer-fighting antioxidants it contains because of its high cocoa content. But eat it only once in a while as it is also high in fat.

54 mg of antioxidants (catechins)
Desirable daily amount in 3.5 oz (100 g)

480 calories
30 g of fat
Undesirable amount of fat for a daily food

Source: National Institute of Public Health and Environment (Netherlands), U.S. Agriculture Department
TNS

Life & Style

Hundreds of Paddington bears left for queen to go to charity

LONDON (AP)—More than 1,000 Paddington bears and other teddies left in tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II in London and Windsor will be donated to a children's charity, Buckingham Palace said Saturday.

Mourners left thousands of tributes, including flowers and teddy bears, outside Buckingham Palace and in royal parks in London and outside Windsor Castle in an outpouring of grief after the U.K.'s longest-reigning monarch died on Sept. 8 at age 96.

AP

A Paddington bear stuffed toy is placed on a chair next to a Union flag umbrella as people wait opposite the Palace of Westminster to be first in line bidding farewell to Queen Elizabeth II in London on Sept. 14, 2022.

The queen became linked to Paddington bear, another British national treasure, after the two appeared together in a short comedy video during Platinum Jubilee celebrations earlier this year to mark the monarch's 70 years on the throne. The video, which featured the queen taking afternoon tea with a computer-animated Paddington bear, saw her telling the bear that she shared his love for marmalade sandwiches—and that she liked to hide them in her purse "for later."

Buckingham Palace and the royal parks said Saturday the hundreds of bears left in tribute of the queen will be professionally cleaned before being delivered to Barnado's, a children's charity.

Elizabeth was patron of the charity for over 30 years, and in 2016 she passed the patronage to Camilla, the wife of King Charles III and now known as the Queen Consort.

"We are honoured to be able to gives homes to the teddies that people left in her memory," said Lynn Perry, chief executive of Barnardo's. "We promise to look after these bears who will be well-loved and bring joy to the children we support."

California baker creates life-sized Han Solo out of bread

AP

Catherine Pervan, with Our House Bakery in Benicia, Calif., talks about creating the life-sized Han Solo on Oct. 13, 2022 The piece is the bakery's entry in the downtown Benicia scarecrow contest.

BENICIA, Calif. (AP)—Han Solo may be a hunk. But "Pan Solo" is a hunk of bread.

That's what a bakery in the San Francisco Bay Area has dubbed its 6-foot (1.8 meter) bread sculpture of the "Star Wars" character as he appeared after being frozen in carbonite in "The Empire Strikes Back."

Hanalee Pervan and her mother, Catherine Pervan, co-owners of One House Bakery in Benicia, California, spent weeks molding, baking and assembling the life-sized sculpture using wood and two types of dough, including a type of yeastless dough with a higher sugar content that will last longer.

The two worked at night, after the day's business was done. The lovingly crafted details show Han Solo's anguished face and his hands straining to reach out.

Hanalee said she might have gotten a bit obsessed.

"Mom made me leave it because I was obsessing over the lips," Hanalee Pervan told the New York Times. "She was like, 'You need to walk away.'"

Creating Pan Solo was particularly meaningful, she told the paper, because she contracted COVID-19 in January 2021 and lost much of her senses of smell and taste.

"So just to find joy in a different part of food is really important," she said.

The sculpture is now on display outside of the bakery, located about a half-hour's drive north of San Francisco.

Pan Solo is the bakery's entry in the annual Downtown Benicia Main Street Scarecrow Contest. The public will get to vote on their favorites from among more than two dozen creations entered by local businesses.

Actor Robbie Coltrane, Harry Potter's Hagrid, dies at 72

LONDON (AP)—Robbie Coltrane, the baby-faced comedian and character actor whose hundreds of roles included a crime-solving psychologist on the TV series "Cracker" and the gentle half-giant Hagrid in the "Harry Potter" movies, has died. He was 72.

Coltrane's agent Belinda Wright said he died Friday at a hospital in his native Scotland, and did not immediately offer other details. She called him "forensically intelligent" and "brilliantly witty" in just one of many tributes made to him.

Coltrane

"Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling, who decades ago had said Coltrane was her first choice to play Hagrid, tweeted Friday that he was "an incredible talent, a complete one off."

"I was beyond fortunate to know him, work with him and laugh my head off with him," she wrote.

Born Anthony Robert McMillan in Rutherglen, Scotland, Coltrane was in his early 20s when he began pursuing an acting career and renamed himself in honor of jazz musician John Coltrane.

He already had a notable screen career, with credits including "Mona Lisa," "Nuns on the Run" and Kenneth Branagh's adaptation of "Henry V" when he broke through on his own as a hard-bitten detective in "Cracker," the 1990s TV series for which he won best actor at the British Academy Television Awards three years running.

UK: Climate protesters throw soup on Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers'

LONDON (AP)—Climate protesters threw soup over Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" in London's National Gallery on Friday to protest fossil fuel extraction, but caused no damage to the glass-covered painting.

The group Just Stop Oil, which wants the British government to halt new oil and gas projects, said activists dumped two cans of tomato soup over the oil painting, one of the Dutch artist's most iconic works. The two protesters also glued themselves to the gallery wall.

The soup splashed across the glass covering the painting and its gilded frame. The gallery said "there is some minor damage to the frame but the painting is unharmed." It was cleaned and returned to its place in the gallery on Friday afternoon.

The work is one of several versions of "Sunflowers" that Van Gogh painted in the late 1880s.

London's Metropolitan Police said officers arrested two people on suspicion of criminal damage and aggravated trespass.

"Specialist officers have now un-glued them and they have been taken into custody to a central London police station," the force said in a statement.

A group of protesters from the same group later gathered at police headquarters and sprayed yellow paint over the rotating "New Scotland Yard" sign in front of it. Several also glued themselves to the road, blocking traffic. Police said 24 people were arrested.

Mom has yet to introduce adult kids to new family

DEAR ABBY: My mom divorced my dad more than 20 years ago. She remarried three years ago. She sent my sister and me a text the week of her wedding saying she was keeping the wedding small and only for those she felt would be comfortable there. They eloped midweek with my aunt and uncle standing beside them. The man my mom married makes her happy, which I am glad about.

Her new husband has six adult children with whom they spend a lot of time. Is it odd that we haven't yet met his kids? I understand COVID kept us from having a picnic to meet one another, but there's still no plan for us to meet the family our mom spends most of her time with.

I did say something to her, and she offered to go to counseling. I'm hurt. I feel abandoned, and I'm becoming resentful. Am I just a spoiled adult child? How can I support my mom in her marriage and continue to have a relationship with her without feeling left out?

PERPLEXED ADULT CHILD

DEAR PERPLEXED: Yes, it is odd that you haven't met your step-siblings. Very odd. Are there any issues between you and your mother that you didn't mention in your letter? That she would offer to go to counseling with you when you told her you felt abandoned indicates that there may be some. It could benefit both of you to talk with a licensed marriage and family therapist. Please don't wait. And, perhaps in the future, instead of waiting to be invited to some sort of meet-and-greet, you should consider issuing the invitation yourself.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married more than 20 years to a very kind man, but the only thing he can talk about is cars and trucks. They are literally his only hobby. He spends most of his free time cleaning, polishing and talking about them. He prioritizes them way above me, and has for most of our married life.

I do think there is a bit of OCD going on here, but he refuses help. We have been to several counselors, but he denies the obsession and we get nowhere. I'm getting older and I'm not sure I can take much more of this. When we occasionally watch a movie, he spends it pointing out the vehicles and has no clue what the movie is about. Traveling was spent pointing out all the vehicles on the road, not the sights.

He retires soon and has zero other interests. I need more in my life, and I'm seriously thinking being alone would be better than listening to car and truck history until my dying day. Please help.

MORE TO LIFE THAN THAT

DEAR MORE: I agree there is more to life than this. But try explaining that to a car "enthusiast." By now you should have realized that you can't change your husband. You can, however, develop more of your own interests and spend time with like-minded people. The same is true for travel if you join a group. It seems you could use a dose of outside input and intellectual stimulation. Go for it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

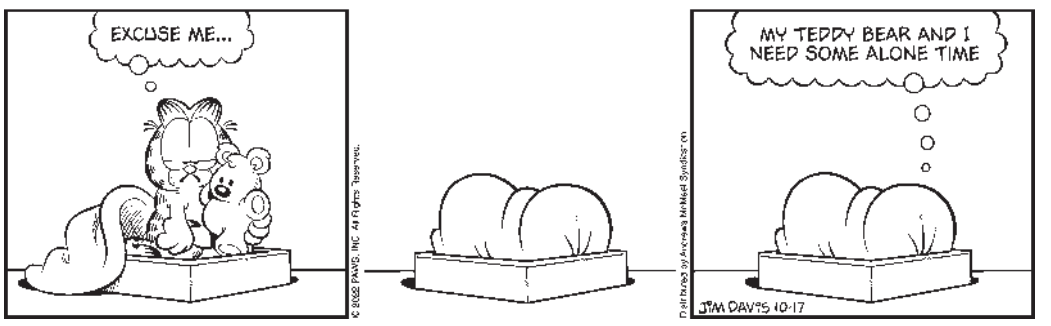
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

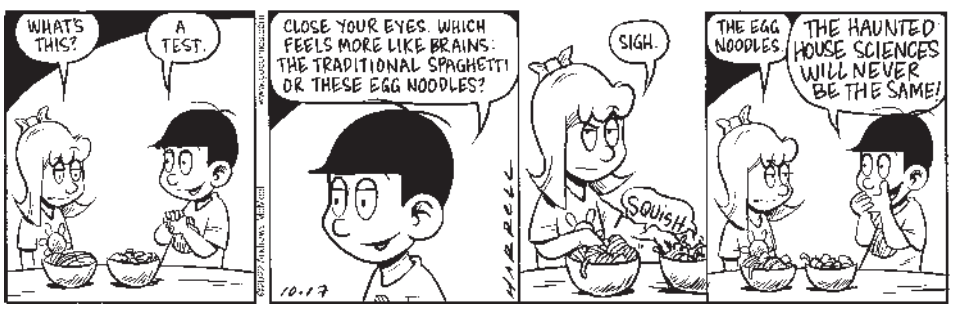
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



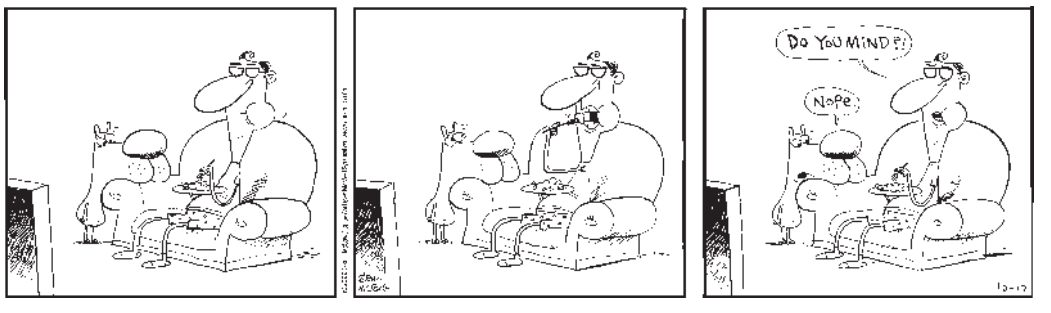
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THIS?
A TEST.
CLOSE YOUR EYES. WHICH FEELS MORE LIKE BRAINS: THE TRADITIONAL SPAGHETTI OR THESE EGG NOODLES?
SIGH.
SQUISH
THE EGG NOODLES
THE HAUNTED HOUSE SCIENCES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!
10-17

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Spider's creation
4 Indian coin
9 Youngster
12 Writer Tarbell
13 Serengeti grazer
14 "— you for real?"
15 Thanksgiving dinner choice
17 Hockey surface
18 Conditions
19 Sleeve type
21 Some photo finishes
24 Spoken
25 Carte lead-in
26 Agent
28 Wily
31 Lounge
33 Note after fa
35 Oaxaca water
36 Dutch bloom
38 Label
40 "Westworld" airer
41 Sediment
43 Mesas' cousins
45 Show off
47 — Maria (coffee liqueur)
48 Squealer
49 Exam constraint
54 Calendar abbr.
55 Top invitees
56 Sch. founded by Jefferson
57 "Gosh!"
58 God
59 Workout site

DOWN

1 Humorist
2 College URL ender
3 Rail
4 Short coat
5 "Odyssey" hero
6 Crony
7 January, to Juana
8 Mystery writers' awards
9 Red braking signal
10 Sea predator
11 Adolescent
16 Tool set
20 Big bash
21 Beer ingredient
22 Matty of baseball
23 Starbucks order
27 Soup cooker
29 Lump of sugar
30 "Get Smart" evil agency
32 Stead
34 Doctor's order
37 Group of five
39 Culpable
42 Subway entrance
44 — chi
45 Lily pad traveler
46 Chantilly, e.g.
50 Roman 1002
51 Make a face
52 Wall climber
53 Highland hat

Solution time: 26 mins.

H	U	G	■	L	P	S	■	A	H	E	A	D
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C	A	T	■	D	A	V	E	N	P	O	R	T
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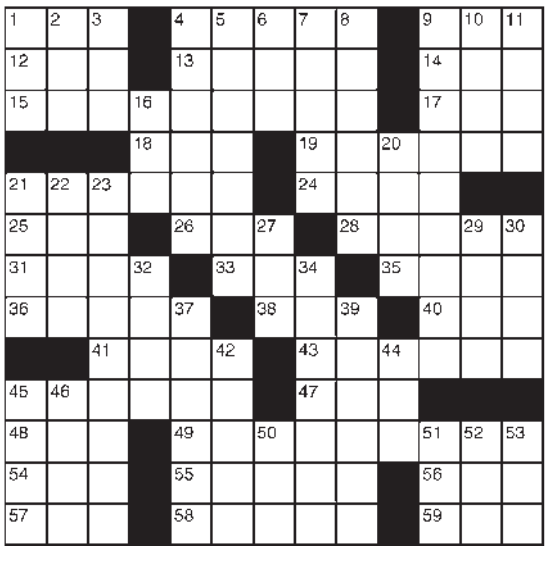
Last Friday's Answer 10/17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Felicity Jones, 39; Eminem, 50; Rob Marshall, 62; Alan Jackson, 64.

Happy Birthday: Channel your emotions into something creative this year, and you will find another way to bring in cash. Strive for peace and happiness, and challenges will be easier to manage. Compromise will buy you time to do your own thing and give those you love a chance to do the same. Don't let uncertainty be your downfall. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 26, 34, 36, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Time spent with a loved one or someone you find informative and refreshing will make a difference in how you see your situation unfolding. Don't give up on someone. Discussing what's bothering you will bring better days ahead. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Put your honor badge on and stick to the truth, regardless of what others share. Pay attention to detail and you'll attract interest in what you discover. Choose a unique path that allows you to meet interesting people along the way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stay focused on what's important to you. Keeping busy will help you dodge controversy. Don't trust someone trying to sell you something or anyone coercing you into doing something you shouldn't. Discipline will pay off. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Emotions will be difficult to hide. Be a good listener and refrain from overreacting if you don't like what you hear or see. Ask an expert if you are in doubt, and you will gain a different perspective regarding your next move. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Discuss your concerns, and solutions will unfold. Being honest regarding your likes and dislikes will bring you closer to someone you love. Don't let a change someone makes be a cause for alarm. Find a positive outlet and take advantage of the situation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Channel your energy into moneymaking pursuits. Learning something new or making a professional change or long-term investment will pay off. Connect with someone supportive and willing to contribute to your success. A change of scenery will spark your imagination. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Trust and believe in yourself and your ideas. Taking a unique step forward will be educational and prompt you to incorporate the things you enjoy doing most into your everyday routine. Stick to a budget to avoid stress and worry. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn something that will bring you one step closer to a position or daily routine that makes you happy. Helping others will be draining, therefore monitoring how much you are willing to give is necessary. Keep private matters to yourself. Home improvement is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A joint venture will tempt you. Before you proceed, consider what it will cost and if it's within financial reach. Set high standards and contribute to what you feel is worthwhile. Nurture meaningful relationships and set time aside for romance. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be explicit when asked about your qualifications. Don't embellish what you can do to make your offer more inviting. A positive change requires honesty and integrity to keep the peace and to prosper. Keep life simple and affordable. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take the initiative to lower your overhead. Select a healthy routine that keeps you physically, emotionally and mentally fit. Commit to a savings plan. Contracts and investments are looking good. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A problem at home will mount if you don't address issues quickly. Refuse to let your emotions step in and take over when you need rational solutions that won't undermine your integrity, finances or health. Do your dirty work yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sophisticated, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. You are disciplined and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8				5		1		3
	4			8	2		6	
3		6				2		
	1		8		4			
7	8						9	6
			2		6		5	
		3				7		4
	7		5	4			3	
4		1		6				8

Difficulty Level ★ 10/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	8	3	7	2	1	9	4	5
5	1	7	4	3	9	8	2	6
4	9	2	8	5	6	1	7	3
2	4	5	1	8	3	6	9	7
7	6	8	2	9	4	3	5	1
9	3	1	5	6	7	2	8	4
8	5	6	3	7	2	4	1	9
3	7	4	9	1	8	5	6	2
1	2	9	6	4	5	7	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/16

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MONTE CARLO Solution: 13 letters

E	G	H	S	A	U	Q	S	P	B	R	O	N	Z	E
E	U	A	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T	S	W
E	C	R	M	T	A	G	L	M	U	I	R	T	A	C
T	E	N	O	B	L	C	O	F	S	R	V	G	E	O
T	S	L	A	P	L	N	N	U	E	P	E	A	B	N
E	S	M	A	R	E	I	V	I	R	R	I	L	T	C
L	A	Y	O	R	T	A	N	N	I	M	E	H	C	E
U	R	L	C	N	E	N	N	G	P	U	E	O	C	R
O	R	P	A	L	A	C	E	U	M	O	C	T	C	T
R	E	H	B	M	E	C	N	R	E	S	K	O	H	S
G	T	R	R	L	R	T	O	B	E	T	S	E	A	E
A	A	O	L	I	O	O	C	R	A	P	S	D	R	L
M	S	A	V	I	E	U	F	L	O	G	R	I	L	B
E	R	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	V	E	A
S	E	C	N	A	S	S	I	A	N	E	R	A	S	T

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Barbecue, Bottom Dwellers, Broad, Brown, Butter, Cheeks, Cook, Curry, Deboned, Deep, Dine, Fillet, Fins, Fire, Fish, Flat, Flavor, Flesh, Floor, French, Fried, Frozen, Hard, Head, Large, Lean, Light, Liver, Lophius, Market, Meaty, Mild, Mouth, Nets, Ocean, Poach, Protein, Sea, Skin, Spine, Steamed, Stews, Stock, Sushi, Sweet, Tail, Teeth, Tender, Trim, Vein, Voracious, Walk, White

Last Friday's Answer: All-Terrain

The NEW **Volume 70** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Cronenworth, Padres rally to stun Dodgers 5-3 to reach NLCS

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Baseball fans in San Diego have been waiting a long time to party like this and the Padres were more than happy to finally oblige.

What made it so much sweeter was that they toppled the mighty Los Angeles Dodgers, the best team in the majors this year and one that had beaten up on the Padres regularly for the better part of two seasons.

Jake Cronenworth hit a tie-breaking, two-run single with two outs in the seventh inning and San Diego rallied past the Dodgers 5-3 Saturday night to advance to the NL Championship Series for the first time since 1998.

Petco Park shook and the sellout crowd of 45,139 roared when Josh Hader struck out Mookie Betts, Trea Turner and Freddie Freeman in succession to end the Padres' third straight win against the Dodgers.

Hader and third baseman Manny Machado jumped into each other's arms and the rest of the team joined them in a wild celebration on the infield grass as fireworks went off above the downtown ballpark. Machado and Juan Soto exhorted the fans for more as they all reveled in the middle of a rare San Diego rainstorm.

"Our fans have been waiting for so long and I used to be that fan that was waiting," said Joe Musgrove, the hometown kid who started the clincher. "It feels good to be on this side of the ball, I'll tell you that, but these fans deserve to celebrate tonight.

"I know the job's not done, we've got a lot of baseball ahead of us still, but this is something that needs to be celebrated," Musgrove said. "Those guys handed it to us all year long and when it came down to it and we needed to win ballgames we found ways to do it."

Before a sign-carrying crowd chanting "Beat LA! Beat LA!," the Padres stunned the 111-win Dodgers with a five-run seventh to win their best-of-five NL Division Series 3-1.

"It's about to be a party out here tonight," said Musgrove, who grew up a Padres fan in the San Diego suburbs.

"I mean, since I was a little kid we've been getting beat up by the Dodgers. But when it comes down to it and the games matter, this team stepped up, from top to bottom."

The Padres had lost nine straight series to the Dodgers before winning the one that mattered the most.

San Diego will host the Philadelphia Phillies in Games 1 and 2 of an all-wild card NLCS on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Phillies beat the defending World Series champion Atlanta Braves 8-3 earlier in the day to win their NLDS in four games.

"This is what the city's been waiting for for a long time," said Machado, the Padres' $300 million third baseman and unquestioned leader.

The Padres last reached the NLCS 24 years ago when they beat Atlanta in six games and were then swept by the New York Yankees in the World Series. A handful of players from that team watched from a luxury suite, including Hall of Fame closer Trevor Hoffman and center fielder Steve Finley.

It was a soul-crushing ending for the Dodgers after the best regular-season record in club history and manager Dave Roberts' prediction during spring training that they'd win the World Series.

"Shock factor, very high. Disappointment, very high. It's crushing," Roberts said. "Each guy gave everything they had all year long, and a tremendous season. The great thing about baseball is the unpredictability, and the tough thing about it is the same thing.

"Nothing I can say is going to make it feel any better. Obviously we didn't expect to be in this position," he added.

The game was delayed 31 minutes at the start by showers, which returned in the eighth inning and prompted a short delay while the grounds crew worked on the mound.

After left-hander Tyler Anderson stymied the Padres through five scoreless innings, San Diego broke through against the Dodgers' bullpen in the seventh.

Jurickson Profar drew a leadoff walk against Tommy Kahnle, took third on Trent Grisham's single and scored when Austin Nola's infield single glanced off Freeman's glove at first base. Yency Almonte, who took the loss, came on and was greeted by Kim Ha-seong's RBI double inside the third base line, followed by Soto's tying single to right.

With two outs and the crowd on its feet, Cronenworth singled to center off local product Alex Vesia to give the Padres the lead, raising his arms in celebration as he rounded first and then punching the air with his right fist as he pulled into second base on the throw home. Soto, acquired from Washington in a blockbuster trade Aug. 2, slid home headfirst and jumped up and cheered.

"We talked about it all day—we're winning tonight no matter what the situation is," Cronenworth said.

"It took a team effort to beat a really good team and we did that," Machado said.

After the first rain delay, fans were amped up in anticipation of Musgrove pitching his hometown Padres into the NL Championship Series. The big right-hander from suburban El Cajon, a first-time All-Star in 2022, was the first Padres pitcher from San Diego to make a postseason start in his hometown.

But Anderson outpitched Musgrove, holding the Padres to two hits through five innings.

The Dodgers took a 2-0 lead in the third. Betts walked with one out and Turner scorched a grounder past third baseman Machado, who has carried the Padres much of the season, to move Betts to third. Freeman, who helped the Braves win the World Series last year before signing with the Dodgers as a free agent, doubled down the right field line to bring them both in.

Will Smith hit a sacrifice fly against Steven Wilson with the bases loaded in the seventh for a 3-0 lead, but winning pitcher Tim Hill prevented further damage.

The Dodgers will be left with an empty feeling. They won the NL West for the ninth time in 10 seasons and finished 22 games ahead of San Diego. The Dodgers went 14-5 against the Padres in the regular season.

Musgrove was trying for his second straight playoff series-clinching win. On Sunday night, he dominated the New York Mets at Citi Field, allowing just one hit and one walk in seven innings in a 6-0 win that sent the Padres to the NLDS.

He gave up two runs and six hits in six innings against the Dodgers, struck out eight and walked three.

FIRST PITCH

Jake Peavy, the 2007 NL Cy Young Award winner who was Musgrove's boyhood idol, threw out the ceremonial first pitch to former teammate Mark Loretta. Musgrove switched to Peavy's No. 44 after he was obtained by the Padres prior to the 2021 season.

UP NEXT

Dodgers: Play their spring training opener Feb. 25 against Milwaukee.

Padres: RHP Yu Darvish likely will get the start Tuesday in Game 1 of the NLCS.

Devin Haney beats Kambosos to keep 4 world lightweight belts

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—American Devin Haney remains the undisputed lightweight boxing champion after outclassing former titleholder George Kambosos Jr. yet again in Melbourne.

Despite sustaining a cut on the right side of his face during the eighth round, the 23-year-old Haney was dominant on Sunday while claiming a unanimous points decision over the Australian.

The unbeaten American has won 29 fights, 15 of them by knockout, and has unified the WBA, IBF, WBO and The Ring lightweight belts.

Haney outpointed Kambosos, who claimed the four titles in an upset win over Teofino Lopez at Madison Square Garden last November, in Melbourne in June when claiming the lightweight belts for the first time.

Haney proved to be the better boxer again with another victory over Kambosos, who sustained cuts under his left eye and above his right ear which left him bloodied late in the fight.

Haney's left jab was the difference in the first fight, but he demonstrated his versatility when using his right hand to great effect in their second meeting.

A decisive victor, Haney was awarded a 118-109 verdict by one judge, while the other two rated him a 118-110 victor.

"I went in there and knew he was looking to the jab. We wanted to show some more tools in my arsenal. I think the right hand won the fight tonight," Haney said. "He is a warrior. I take my hat off to George Kambosos and all the Australians who came out."

AP

United States' Devin Haney displays his belts after defeating George Kambosos Jr. of Australia as Haney defends his undisputed lightweight boxing title in Melbourne, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022.

A second straight defeat raises questions about the future of the 29-year-old boxer known as "Ferocious" Kambosos, who fell to a 20-2 record with the loss.

Kambosos said in the lead-in to their second fight that he would retire if beaten by Haney again, though he later walked back on that statement.

He said it "was not the end" after the loss when praising Haney.

"He is a great fighter. For me, to have the guts to go again with him. He gave me a good boxing lesson in the first round," he said. "He is a slick man. I gave my best. I tried my heart out tonight. But this guy is going to be there for a long time.

"I gave him a great challenge. A great fight over 24 rounds. He is one of the best in the world in boxing, not just this division."

Boxing from the red corner, the Australian started the fight well, pinning his rival on the ropes with a flurry of punches shortly before the bell rang to end the first round.

But the American responded well in the following round as he started to take control.

The Las Vegas resident landed some strong punches during the third round and looked increasingly comfortable on both the offensive and defensive.

Haney managed his distance well, despite the efforts from Kambosos, using his left jab to great effect while also showing great skill with his right. He was able to extend his lead in the fifth round despite the Sydney-based boxer landing some decent body shots.

Having opened up a cut under the Australian's left eye, Haney peppered Kambosos with a series of jabs in the seventh round.

With Jim Kambosos, the Australian's father, urging the challenger to raise "the pressure," he went after the titleholder with vigor in the eighth round.

It was his best sequence since the latter stages of the first round, but by that stage only a knockout would be enough to secure Kambosos victory in the 12-round fight.

Sensing a possible momentum shift, the crowd at Rod Laver Arena rallied behind the Australian, who was able to open a cut on the right-hand side of Haney's face. But Haney responded by reasserting his superiority.

"I definitely feel I controlled the fight from round one to round 12," Haney said. "I knew what I was doing throughout the whole fight. I enjoyed the fight. I put the pressure on and made it entertaining."

MLB Playoffs: Astros, Padres, Phils advance, Guardians close

The Houston Astros are going back to the AL Championship Series for the sixth straight year.

One big swing by Jeremy Peña was enough.

Peña homered in the 18th inning, and Houston beat the Seattle Mariners 1-0 on Saturday for a three-game sweep of their AL Division Series. Luis Garcia worked five innings for the win, finishing a stellar effort by the Astros bullpen.

Houston started its ALCS streak with its 2017 World Series championship. It was eliminated in the ALCS in 2018 and 2020, and it lost in the World Series in 2019 against Washington and last year against Atlanta.

"Once you've been through it and then you go through it again and again and again, and then you sort of expect excellence, and that's what this team expects out of itself," Houston manager Dusty Baker said.

Bryce Harper and the Philadelphia Phillies advanced to the NLCS with an 8-3 victory over the Braves on Saturday in Game 4 of their best-of-five Division Series. It's the first NLCS appearance for Philly since 2010.

They'll open Tuesday at San Diego in an all-wild card NLCS after the Padres stunned the 111-win Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 to win their Division Series in four games. San Diego is in the NLCS for the first time in 24 years.

AP

The San Diego Padres pose for a picture after defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 in Game 4 of a baseball NL Division Series, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, in San Diego.

Next up for this year's Astros is Game 1 against the New York Yankees or Cleveland Guardians on Wednesday in Houston. Cleveland can advance with one more win against New York in Game 4 of their ALDS on Sunday night.

Here's what else to know about the MLB playoffs Sunday:

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE (All times ET)

ALDS Game 4: New York Yankees at Cleveland, 7:07 p.m., TBS

COLE'S CHALLENGE

Gerrit Cole starts Sunday night for New York, looking to send the ALDS to a decisive Game 5 back home in the Bronx. Cal Quantrill pitches for Cleveland.

The 32-year-old Cole went 13-8 with a 3.50 ERA in 33 starts this season for the AL East champions. The ace right-hander pitched 6 1/3 innings of one-run ball in the Yankees' 4-1 win against Quantrill and the Guardians on Tuesday night.

"I thought we were solid in general, kind of in all aspects," Cole said of his Game 1 outing, "and so looking to find little ways to improve and stay right there."

Cleveland rallied for a dramatic 6-5 victory against New York on Saturday night, taking a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series. Rookie Oscar Gonzalez hit a two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning.

The 27-year-old Quantrill is making his second career postseason start. He went 9-0 with a 3.28 ERA in 19 home starts this year. He has not absorbed a loss in his last 36 home starts overall, the second-longest such streak in MLB history.

"I think some of it's probably a little bit of randomness, but I do enjoy pitching here," Quantrill said. "Like I said, I just enjoy the routine of working here and preparing and, you know, things have gone well."

THOMSON'S STORY

Philadelphia was 22-29 when it fired Joe Girardi on June 3 and promoted Rob Thomson from bench coach to interim manager.

The 59-year-old Thomson, who had been a career coach for the Yankees and Phillies, directed Philadelphia to an 87-75 finish and an NL wild card. Now the Phillies are in the NLCS for the first time since they were eliminated by San Francisco in 2010.

"Once we hit June, the schedule kind of lightened up a little bit and we started winning, and guys started getting confidence and believing that they could win and believing that, OK, now this is the team that we thought we were," Thomson said. "And just kept going."

Thomson is the first Canadian-born manager to lead a team to the postseason. He had his interim tag removed on Monday when the club announced his new two-year contract.

END OF THE ROAD

Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman and the Dodgers dropped three straight to the Padres in a painful NLDS defeat after the best regular-season record in club history (111-51) and manager Dave Roberts' prediction during spring training that they'd win the World Series.

"Shock factor, very high. Disappointment, very high. It's crushing," Roberts said. "Each guy gave everything they had all year long, and a tremendous season. The great thing about baseball is the unpredictability, and the tough thing about it is the same thing.

"Nothing I can say is going to make it feel any better. Obviously we didn't expect to be in this position," he added.

The Dodgers are left with an empty feeling. They won the NL West for the ninth time in 10 seasons and finished 22 games ahead of San Diego. The Dodgers went 14-5 against the Padres in the regular season and had won nine straight regular-season series against them.

"These guys dominated us all year long, but we got hot at the right time," Padres pitcher Joe Musgrove said. "It's a good feeling." ***(AP)***

No. 6 Tennessee beats No. 3 Alabama 52-49 on late FG

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— After 15 years of being a rival to Alabama in name only, Tennessee snapped a humbling losing streak, stamped itself a championship contender and celebrated in spectacular fashion.

Chase McGrath made a 40-yard field goal as time expired to give No. 6 Tennessee a 52-49 victory over No. 3 Alabama on Saturday.

As soon as the kick knuckle-balled through the uprights, some of the more than 100,000 fans stormed the field to join the party as the Volunteers (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) ended a 15-game drought to the Crimson Tide (6-1, 3-1).

Fireworks went off over Neyland Stadium and it glowed orange as the song "Dixieland Delight" by the band Alabama—a Crimson Tide favorite—blared over the stadium speakers.

And it didn't take long for the goal posts to go down.

"This is college football at its absolute best," Vols coach Josh Heupel said. "We were the best team on the field tonight. That's all we can control."

"We didn't answer the bell today," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "We did too many things to help (Tennessee)."

Hendon Hooker drove the Vols 45 yards in 13 seconds to set up the winner. An 18-yard pass to Ramel Keyton and 27-yard hookup with Bru McCoy set the stage for the winner.

"It wasn't my cleanest hit," said McGrath, who missed a PAT earlier. "I didn't have the best contact on the ball."

Jalin Hyatt caught six passes for 207 yards, setting a Tennessee record with five touchdowns and earning a postgame cigar—a long-held tradition in the third Saturday of October rivalry—with former Vols great Peyton Manning.

Bryce Young, a game-time decision because of a sprained right shoulder two weeks ago, completed 35 passes for 455 yards and two TDs for the Tide.

"It was great to be out there with my teammates," the Heisman Trophy winner said. "Shoulder is fine."

Hyatt's fifth TD catch tied it at 49 with 3:26 left in the fourth.

"(This game) just happened," Hyatt said. "It's not just me. It was just the looks we got."

Young drove the Tide into the Tennessee territory in the final minute, but Alabama stalled at the 33 with three straight incomplete passes. Will Reichard's 50-yard field goal attempt for the lead was wide way right.

With only 15 seconds left, overtime seemed likely, but Hooker wasn't done and did the Heisman winner one better.

Hooker finished 21 for 30 for 385 yards and five TDs.

"He played at an unbelievable level," Heupel said. "He's the key to our ignition."

Tennessee had not beaten a Top 10 teams since 2006 against Georgia. That was also the last year the Vols beat Alabama.

A season later, Saban became Alabama's coach. While the Tide has become college football's greatest dynasty with six national titles, Tennessee has burned through coaches and been mired in mediocrity.

In his second season in Knoxville, Heupel has pulled the Vols from the muck.

Tennessee looks like a legitimate national title contender behind a transfer quarterback from Virginia Tech who should now be right near the top of those Heisman leaderboards.

"We approach every game the same," Hooker said. "Play 100% for our brothers."

A week after Alabama held Texas A&M out of the end zone on the last play of the game to dodge an upset, the Tide went down. The Vols scored the most points against an Alabama team since Sewanee put 54 on the Tide in 1907.

The Tide also had 17 penalties for 130 yards, the most during the Saban era, according to ESPN.

Tennessee's up-tempo offense jumped out to a 21-7 first-quarter lead and led 28-20 at halftime. All four touchdown drives took over two minutes.

Young threw for 205 yards and a touchdown in the first half, while Hooker had 166 yards and two scores. Young wasn't sacked, but was knocked down five times in the half.

Alabama fumbled Tennessee's only punt. The Vols recovered and scored four plays later.

THE TAKEAWAY

Alabama: The Tide will lament the final time it had the ball and not being able to just get a few more yards for Reichard, who missed three field goals last week against A&M.

Jahmyr Gibbs dropped a short pass over the middle with room to run on second down and then the Tide threw again incomplete on third. A running playing or two could have also forced Tennessee to burn a timeout, which ended up coming in handy when the Vols got the ball back.

Tennessee: Four of Tennessee's six victories have come against teams that were ranked at the time of the game—though none of Pitt, LSU and Florida were ranked coming into this weekend. Still, the Vols resume is as good as any in the country.

NOT AVAILABLE

Two key Tennessee players weren't available. WR Cedric Tillman, who sustained a high ankle sprain against Akron, didn't play despite having surgery to speed up the recovery process three weeks ago. This was his third missed game ... S Jaylen McCollough, a four-year starter, was arrested for aggravated assault last weekend. He had played in all 41 games since his freshman year with 32 starts.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hooker has thrown a touchdown pass in 18 consecutive games, tying Heath Shuler's school record (1992-94). His third-quarter interception was his first in 260 passes.

OLD SCHOOL

Tennessee had the ball on the Alabama 2. Breaking from the norm, Hooker went under center rather than the shotgun as the Vols were lined up in the I-formation. Fullback Princeton Fant, a tight end who was recruited as a running back, had his first carry since 2018 and scored.

UP NEXT

Alabama: Hosts Mississippi State next Saturday.

Tennessee: Hosts Tennessee-Martin next Saturday.

Neymar faces fraud trial for Barcelona transfer from Santos

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Five years since Neymar put a tumultuous end to his career at Barcelona, the Brazil forward will be tried in Spain to determine whether he and others committed fraud when he joined the Catalan club from Santos back in 2013.

In a trial starting Monday in Barcelona, Neymar, his father, and the former leaderships of both Barcelona and Brazilian club Santos face charges of fraud and unfair competition. They are accused of hiding the real cost of his transfer with the goal of not paying money that DIS, a private Brazilian company, says it is owed as the rightful owners of 40% of Neymar's player rights.

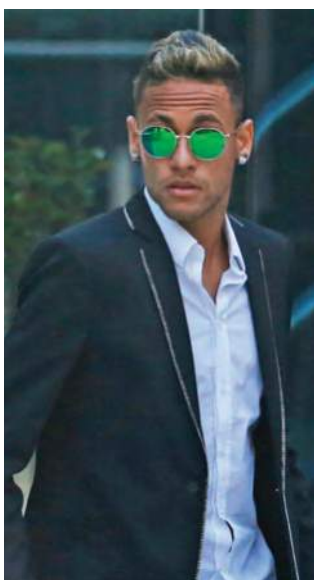
DIS is asking for Neymar, his father, also called Neymar and who acts as his agent, and former Barcelona executives Sandro Rosell and Josep Bartomeu to be jailed for five years.

All the accused have denied any wrongdoing.

The trial is expected to last until the end of October, with the World Cup opening on Nov. 21 in Qatar. Neymar will be obliged to attend unless the judge grants him permission to miss a session.

The lawyers for the plaintiffs argue that DIS only received its due percentage from the 17 million euros ($16.5 million) that Barcelona and Santos initially announced as the transfer fee between the clubs, while the real cost was some 82 million euros ($79.7 million). An investigative judge in Spain has already said that the real cost was at least 83.3 million euros ($81 million).

"Neymar the player, with the complicity of his parents, and of Barcelona and its executives at the time, and of Santos at a later date, defrauded the legitimate economic interests of DIS, cheating not only the company but violating the confidence that had been placed in him," Paulo M. Nasser, lawyer for DIS, said.



AP

FC Barcelona's Neymar leaves the national court after testifying in an investigation into alleged irregularities regarding his transfer to Barcelona, in Madrid, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016.

TATAGAS

From Page 20

giving the Tatagas an opportunity to steal it away in the 18th minute with a goal made by Javen Camacho.

The first half came and went with the Geckos unable to make it past the Tatagas' defenders for a score of 2-1, TMS in the lead—with the championship trophy looming in the distance.

The Geckos fought until the very last second but try as they might to push the ball into Tatagas territory, their defenders hampered every attempt at the goal. A few shots were taken at the Tatagas' net but were either too wide or they were interrupted by a defender.

Then, in the 33rd minute, Villagomez scored his second goal and the third and final point of the match to claim the victory over the Geckos, 3-1.

In the end, the Tatagas claimed the gold while the Geckos settled for silver. During the awarding ceremony after the game, the Golden Boot award went to Javen Camacho who had the most goals of the season with 16. The finals Most Valuable Player went to Jayten Villagomez who scored two of the three TMS goals.

The path that led to the championships for the Tatagas was an undefeated one in Group A with three wins, as they cleared every obstacle in their way during the regular season.

Likewise with the Geckos, they remained undefeated throughout the regular season in Group B, with three wins, as each opponent succumbed to their prowess on the field.

The TMS 1 Tatagas reached the finals after defeating Mount Carmel School in the semifinals last Tuesday, 2-1; right after, the Geckos faced off with Saipan Community School, defeating them in the same fashion, 2-1.

MCS 4, SCS 1

In the battle for bronze before the championship game, the Mount Carmel School Knights and the Saipan Community School Guardians duked it out on the field with the Knights' checkmate 4-1 final score.

Stephen Yeom of MCS made the first move only three minutes into the game to put them up 1-0. Yeom swiftly scored a second one 17 minutes in and completed the hattrick after scoring his third and last goal before the end of the first half, making it 3-0.

The Guardians tried to defend their net in the second half but the Knights went in for the checkmate as Jason Tagabuel scored the fourth and last goal in the 38th minute. At this point, the Guardians had yet to make a move for the goal but in the 40th minute, David Ma'ase De Oro found the back of the net to finally put them up on the board.

However, it was too late as the final minutes turned into seconds, which then ended to secure the bronze for the Knights.

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will compete in the V6 Long Distance—10 miles for men, eight miles for women. The mixed crew is competing in the five-mile course, but will not compete in the Mix Crew Long Distance as they do not have enough extra paddlers. There is also a mixed crew for the V6 sprints but SPC will not compete in it as well.

The SPC also extends its appreciation to those who have donated to the team: "As the Saipan Paddling Club makes its final preparations to travel to Palau to take part in the Micronesia Cup, its officers, its board and its members would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made this trip possible—without the generous donations of funds and in-kind contributions the SPC would not be able to take part in this regional annual outrigger canoe paddle competition."

The funding donations were from the Governor's Office, Saipan Mayor's Office, IT&E Saipan, Sen. King-Nabors' office, Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero's office, Guma Familia Estates, LLC, TurnKey Solutions, Saipan Select LLC, Sen. Vinnie Sablan's office, Rep. Leila Staffer's office, Rep. Edwin Propst's office, FishGuyz Scuba & Charter, Rep. Denita Yangetmai's office, Hannam Supermarket, Green Consume Market, San Antonio Supermarket, Delta Management Corp., Rep. Ralph Yumul's office, Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao's office, The Shack Saipan, and Sara Market.

The in-kind contributions were from Tianna Aldan and family, Phillip Aldan and family, Kalea Andrew and family, Joe Weaver, Tyler Andrew and family, Sylvia Taggart, Krista Falig and family, Dora Ada and family, MarPac Saipan, Dan and Paz Calvo, Vinalyn Oronigo and family, Docomo Pacific Saipan, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, The Shack Saipan, Edward Dela Cruz - Run Saipan Club, and Robin Sapong - Northern Marianas Athletics.

The Micronesia Cup Canoe Race has been postponed since 2020 due to COVID 19

TORCHBEARERS

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flinger of DMS won gold with a time of 11:04, followed by Barbara Wang of ACS for silver with a time of 11:46, and Sari Barman from Tanapag Middle School with a time of 12:05.

In the U12 boys individual results, Quido Jambor from SIS reached for gold with a time of 11:15, Reyviel Escarion from ACS won silver with a time of 11:39, and Kanoa Owens from Garapan Elementary School won bronze with a time of 11:53.

ACS administrator and pastor Kok H. Pang exclaimed, "What an age group Cross Country races under a big shower of blessings! This is by far one of the best cross country I ever witnessed."

"First of all, our HS boys and both MS boys and girls did extremely well to claim golds in the team events as champions. Samuel Zhu did us proud to win the U18 in his first try and in style too. Secondly, our HS U18 girls did themselves proud to give SIS a good challenge. Congratulations to SIS girls to win the team gold," he said.

Additionally, he said, "I am very proud to have both our middle school boys and girls clean-sweeping the MS team titles. There are less than 10 MS boys and girls students respectively in ACS and it made the results more pleasing to us. For a small school like us to achieve a big performance is a testament to God's blessings and definitely very good for their overall education. Furthermore, ACS surprisingly won second in the ES Boys team division. There are a total of only 10 boys In the Elementary School of ACS and the six boys who ran achieved great results for us. Reyviel van Escarlan won silver for U12 boys and Nehemiah Li got 6th. I am also very proud of Cloud Tian who placed 16th in the boys' division when he is only 7 years old."

"Finally, I would like to send a big thank you to the meet director, Dr. Ron Synder, Mr. Robin Sapong, Mr. Nick Gross, and everyone in NMA/PSS who worked tirelessly to make this 2022 Cross Country competition such a great success!" Pang added.

The Northern Marianas Athletics coordinated the event along with the Public School System Athletic Program.

The championship results of the elementary school division and high school girls division will come out in the next edition of *Saipan Tribune*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Agape Christian School boys and girls middle school cross country teams pose for a photo after the 2022-2023 All School Cross Country Championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday. The ACS middle school boys team won gold overall and Raffy Cai won bronze in the middle school boys division individual standings. The ACS middle school girls team won gold overall as well and Barbara Wang won silver in the middle school girls individual standings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Agape Christian School boys and girls high school cross country teams pose for a photo after the 2022-2023 All School Cross Country Championships at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday. The ACS high school boys team won gold overall and Samuel Zhu, middle, won gold in the high school boys division individual standings. The ACS high school girls team won silver overall.

Devin Haney beats Kambosos to keep 4 world lightweight belts

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Neymar faces fraud trial for Barcelona transfer from Santos

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Tatagas get curtain call in middle school soccer

LEIGH GASES

Tanapag Middle School 1 team pose for a photo after they won the middle school soccer championships over Saipan International School in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

LEIGH GASES

The recipient of the Golden Boot award, Javen Camacho from the championship team Tanapag Middle School 1, had the most goals of the season with 16.

LEIGH GASES

Jayten Villagomez from the championship team Tanapag Middle School 1 was the finals MVP for being the game's top performer.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The lights are off over the final act of the middle school soccer season, with Tanapag Middle School 1 getting the curtain call after their win against Saipan International School, 3-1, in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In a stunning championship game, the Tatagas powered through an evenly matched opponent, with the Geckos coming in undefeated as well, through the rainy and gloomy late afternoon.

The drizzle came lightly but constantly and blanketed the field with a wet sheen that each player had to traverse carefully or risk slipping and falling, which was hard to do considering they were sprinting to and fro. Nevertheless, cheers were heard during every attack toward either team's goal, with the Geckos' Leonard Delemarle drawing first blood just six minutes into the game.

Four minutes later, the Tatagas' Jayten Villagomez scored their first goal to make it an even 1-1 game. The stage was set as the Geckos couldn't stick their feet to the ball long enough to reclaim the lead,

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Torchbearers take home 3 gold, 2 silver in cross country

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The Agape Christian School Torchbearers bore their torch through the rain and terrain over the course of a month and came out of it with three gold medals, topping the competition in the boys high school division and both middle school divisions, and two silver medals for the elementary boys division and high school girls division, in the 2022-2023 NMA-PSS All Schools Cross Country championship last Saturday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

The ACS middle school girls came in gold with 20 points, followed by Saipan International School with silver for a close 23 points, and bronze for Saipan Community School with 41 points.

Then, the middle school boys Torchbearers zoomed into first place as well for their second gold medal, with a huge lead of 18 points, followed by Dandan Middle School with 49 points, and Hopwood Middle School with 68 points.

For their third gold of the championships, ACS plowed through the finish line in the high school boys division with 17 points, followed by Marianas High School with 29 points, and Mount Carmel School with 70 points.

For the elementary school boys division, the ACS youngsters came in second place for silver with 44 points, right behind SIS with 25 points.

In the high school girls division, ACS came in second place as well with 25 points for their second silver of the championship, right behind SIS with 14 points.

For the high school boys individual results, ACS' Samuel Zhu received gold medal for his time of 19:55, followed by Pony Tang of MHS with a time of 20:08, and Cody Shimizu from MHS as well with a time of 20:29.

In the middle school boys individual results, Michael Miller of Grace Christian Academy came in gold with a time of 9:42, followed by Landen Tafflinger of Dandan Middle School with a time of 10:05, and bronze went to Raffy Cai from ACS with a time of 10:15.

In the middle school girls individual results, Adalee Taf-

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SPC teams off to Palau for Micronesia Cup

By LEIGH GASES
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The Saipan Paddling Club is sending a women's and a men's team to represent the club and the CNMI at the 22nd Micronesia Cup Canoe Race in Koror, Palau that will be held from Friday, Oct. 21 to Sunday, Oct. 23.

The men's team includes coach and athlete Justin Andrew, Corey Mendiola, Phillip Aldan, Tyler Andrew, Jermaine Salas, and Joe Weaver.

The women's team consists of Vinalyn Oronigo, Tianna Aldan, Gerlyn Libunao, Erryne Dasalla, Danica Calvo, Gracie Mendiola.

The team will fly to Palau on Thursday, Oct. 20, and will compete the next day, Friday, Oct. 21, in the V1 500m sprints. On Saturday, Oct. 22, the teams will compete in the V6 1500m sprints and V6 500m sprints, and on Sunday, Oct. 23, they

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Paddling Club men's and women's team representing CNMI in the 22nd Micronesia Cup Canoe Race in Koror, Palau. Back row, from left to right, Justin Andrew, Corey Mendiola, Phillip Aldan, Tyler Andrew, Jermaine Salas, and Joe Weaver. Front row, from left to right, Vinalyn Oronigo, Tianna Aldan, Gerlyn Libunao, Erryne Dasalla, Danica Calvo, and Gracie Mendiola.